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**Volume #86, Report #189 -- Friday, September 29, 2017**  
**Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education**

From confusion and frustration to hopefulness and enlightenment, the responses to state report card grades released this month have run the gamut.

Schools and parents around the state have largely dismissed the rankings, which have dropped significantly since new standards were put in place a few years ago. Many have publicly criticized the grades, saying they're not rooted in reliable methods or just plain don't make sense.

A handful of education researchers and stakeholder groups, meanwhile, have released reports that rely on the report card data and tout its value in tracking trends. The analyses compare charter and traditional schools and gauge, among other things, how disadvantaged students are stacking up to their more privileged peers.

But, like them or not, report cards are here to stay. New federal K-12 laws continue to require states to assess students and schools as well as publish annual ratings.

So how then do policymakers and the K-12 community put an end to the report card frenzy that's become an annual occurrence since the state upped learning standards and moved to an A-F grading scale?

For some, the answer is to change how the bevy of school and testing data is presented.

**Push For Change:** Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said he plans to introduce legislation and bring together a stakeholder group to overhaul report cards so that they no longer grade districts, but instead simply present information.

He said the goal is to fairly provide details of how schools are doing at educating students and quiet public distrust surrounding the current grading system.

"There seems to be an emerging consensus among superintendents and school boards of education and I think legislators are picking this up from the community and parents and from their own experience that report cards have been too volatile," Rep. Duffey said.

More than a dozen other states have instituted an A-F grading scale over the last few years. Like Ohio, many have put off handing out one overall grade to each district in an effort to ease into the change.

However, a handful may never get to that point in their reporting because of backlash to the grades. West Virginia, Alabama and Texas are just a few states debating how to move forward, according to reports.

Rep. Duffey said the public outcry in Ohio is already loud enough to require change, proving that parents and students think their schools are doing better than the report cards reflect.

Many districts, including wealthy suburban districts that were previously accustomed to getting As, have received Fs in a handful of categories over the past two years despite overall scores improving this year. Urban districts that have retooled their entire curricula and cultures say their progress isn't translating to higher report card scores.

"Parents are by and large siding with their school districts over the state, which means the state report card does not have the public's trust," he said. "When it doesn't have the public's trust, it fails to have value as a tool for the state."

The progress measure of the report card is the most-often challenged of the six graded components.

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), who chairs the House Education Committee, said its calculation needs changed because it is a zero-sum ranking, meaning districts can only score better each year if they're making more progress in relation to the progress other schools have made.

For example, students at Olentangy Local Schools saw growth on average, but their progress component score was an F because there wasn't as much growth as experienced by students at Rocky River City Schools, which received an A, he said.

"If everybody else is doing OK, then they can fall off and I'm not really sure that that's what we should do," Rep. Brenner said.

"I think we need to make sure that we're giving the data to the schools and districts so they understand what they need to do to improve the districts if they're capable," and the current grading formula doesn't always allow that, he said.

Data analyst Howard Fleeter with the Ohio Education Policy Institute said he's supportive of the data that's gathered to inform the progress component, but also suggested there could be a better way to grade it.

"When I was teaching, I thought that if every student was worthy of an A, every student should get an A," he said.

Having closely analyzed report card data, Mr. Fleeter said he's grateful for the wealth of information Ohio collects, which is much more than other states.

Over the years, it's helped him find data trends that can predict how students will perform in the future, reveal persistent learning gaps rooted in poverty, and determine how much it costs to educate different types of students, among other things, he said.

However, when it comes to how the state compiles the data to determine grades, Mr. Fleeter said there'd be no love lost on his part if the state threw out its A-F scale.

"I think that the data that is on the report cards is valuable. I am less of a fan of the actual letter grades," he said.

"I think one way you could defend the letter grades is to say, 'There is so much data that's out there. That regular person needs some sort of a shorthand way to make sense out of it and that's what the letter grades do.' The problem is that the letter grades also lead to some shame."

When the learning standards weren't as stringent and the A-F scale wasn't yet introduced, nearly 300 districts received the highest rating of Excellent on state report cards, according to Department of Education records.

Now that many of those same schools are receiving low marks on report cards, their morale may be down, Mr. Fleeter said.

Rep. Brenner suggested that the change in report card rankings could also have a negative economic impact on the state. He said it could signal to businesses looking to move to Ohio that students are less prepared than they were a few years ago when grades were good, even though districts, parents and many lawmakers don't feel that's the case.

"If you get Fs on the report card, would a major company like Amazon take a look at that?" he questioned.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said she'd be willing to take legislative action to change report cards, which is the only way modifications can be made. It has to be under the right circumstances, though, she said.

"I'm always open to looking to make the report card a better vehicle that gives us more accurate information and if that's the goal, yes. If the goal is we don't like the results, so let's get rid of the report card, I'd be much more concerned, frankly," said Sen. Lehner, who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

"We need to make sure that the report card is an accurate tool of assessment, but we do need to make sure that we also assess."

**Reframing Report Cards:** In an effort to stem the wave of concerns that come with every report card release, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria has continually stressed that viewers should look outside the box.

The Ohio School Boards Association advises its members to do the same, said Damon Asbury, the group's director of legislative services. Board members are also encouraged to highlight their districts' non-academic accomplishments.

"It's an important measure, it tells us a lot of information, but it's not the only measure of how to judge your school district and its progress," he said of report cards.

To aid in the push to reshape thinking, ODE this year introduced a section on the individual grade card pages where districts can link to websites highlighting their successes.

Although the aim has been to reframe the general public conversation about report cards, superintendent DeMaria said the importance of the data they provide should still be at the forefront for policy makers.

"It does not paint a complete picture of what is happening in our schools and districts across the state, but it does paint a picture of what's happening academically to a certain extent and it is something that we should pay attention to," he said.

In a presentation before the Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty, he said report card results show a clear connection between economically disadvantaged students and poor academic outcomes. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

They also show that a few schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students are also high achieving, meaning that those students can learn under the right circumstances, he said.

"It allows us then to dig into this phenomenon that we're here to talk about and that is understanding the achievement gaps and acknowledging them," Superintendent DeMaria said of the assessment results displayed through report cards.

Sen. Lehner said there's also a lot that can be learned from new report card indicators showing how Ohio students scored on the ACT and SAT, which are included in the Prepared for Success measure.

The scores were "abysmally low and seem to track pretty well with some of the other data that we're seeing in the report card and that should give a lot of people pause that the report card, as clumsy as it may be, as lengthy as it may be, that it actually is telling us something that we need to really sit up and pay attention to," she said.

When the first report cards were released about two decades ago, they only showed what percentage of students were proficient on new state exams in core subjects, how many students were graduating and school attendance rates.

The report cards now include six components, ten measures and a handful of ungraded data such as financial information. It takes into account student scores on more than a dozen standardized tests.

The state's data collection to assess schools has come a long way, Mr. Fleeter said. So while report cards shouldn't serve as the sole arbiter of whether schools are preparing students for the future, it wouldn't be wise to dismiss them.

"Now we have the ability to disaggregate the data and look at different types of students and you can compare them and you really can understand what's behind things and where the problems are to a greater degree," he said. "People tend to not think about it, but we are lucky that we have all this information that's out there because we can understand better what we're doing well and what we're not as a state."

### **Governor Candidates Tour Qualifications At GOP Central Committee**

Three of Ohio's four Republican gubernatorial candidates on Friday worked to sway a room full of party leaders on why they should top the ballot heading into the 2018 election.

Secretary of State Jon Husted, U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor each spoke before the GOP State Central Committee at a Columbus-area convention center. Attorney General Mike DeWine, also a candidate for the top executive office, was unable to attend.

Although Ohio Republican Party chairwoman Jane Timken remains adamant the party will not endorse to avoid tipping the primary scales, each statewide GOP contender was given the chance to appear before the committee.

Mr. Husted kicked off the remarks, touting his endorsements from pro-gun groups and his outreach through ten satellite call centers that have already made more than 20,000 calls.

"We outraised all candidates for this race," Mr. Husted said. "And you haven't seen anything yet. We're going to continue to build on that momentum and I'm really excited about it."

Emphasizing his efforts to streamline the business filing process and make his office self-sufficient, he positioned himself as a candidate who will follow through on his promises and thereby restore the faith of jaded voters who are frustrated with the system.

"I believe I can do the best job for you, that I can be the voice of the Republican party and the voice of the State of Ohio that will bring new ideas," Mr. Husted said.

Rep. Renacci, meanwhile, held true to his campaign strategy of painting himself as a Donald Trump-style outsider surrounded by candidates representing the status quo.

He struck a more conciliatory tone than his first television ad, however, giving some praise to Gov. John Kasich and stating that the party has "strong candidates." His TV spot released Thursday, the first of the campaign, blasted his three primary opponents as "Columbus fat cats."

Rep. Renacci described his background as a business owner who has created jobs and said voters are looking for a different type of candidate at the ballot.

"That's who I am," he said. "I'm an individual who hasn't spent my entire life in politics. That's the direction we need to take -- a little bit different vision."

Lt. Gov. Taylor emphasized her past election performance, including her status as the only Republican to win statewide office during the 2006 election when Democrats swept into office.

"We need a candidate in the general election who can win in November no matter what the political landscape looks like," she said. "And I win elections. Period."

She highlighted her tax and healthcare proposals, including her desire to eliminate Medicaid expansion, and pointed to her leadership of the Common Sense Initiative as a testament to her desire to curb government regulations.

Without naming names, she also seemed to downplay her rivals' fundraising strength and the advantage of Mr. DeWine's name recognition.

"People in our state, they choose our leaders," she said. "If money and a family name was all that mattered in races, Jeb Bush would be our nominee and Hillary Clinton would be our president today."

David Pepper, Ohio Democratic Party's chairman, in response called the Republican's primary gubernatorial race "one big race to the right."

"The Republican candidates are focused on nasty attacks against one another, while our Democratic candidates are focused on addressing the concerns of voters," Mr. Pepper said. "We've had 57 straight months of job growth trailing the national average, we're struggling to deal with the nation's worst opioid crisis and our public school system has fallen from fifth in the nation to 22nd. The Republican status quo isn't working for Ohio, and Democrats will represent change in 2018."

Other candidates seeking statewide office that addressed the group include Treasurer Josh Mandel, a U.S. Senate hopeful, Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina), who's running for state auditor, and Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), a state treasurer candidate.

**Endorsements:** The group's endorsement policy review committee also recommended the party take no stance on Issue 1 -- the Ohio Crime Victims Bill of Rights -- or Issue 2 -- the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act. The full committee accepted that recommendation with no discussion.

The Republican committee did officially endorse a pair of Ohio Supreme Court candidates: Judge Mary DeGenaro and Judge Craig Baldwin.

Judge DeGenaro, of the Seventh District Court of Appeals, and Judge Baldwin, of the Fifth District Court of Appeals, are running for seats occupied by age-limited Justices Terrence O'Donnell and Bill O'Neil.

In other business, the committee also appointed Katie DeLand to the 12<sup>th</sup> District seat formerly held by Becky Engel.

### **Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees**

The state's two U.S. senators on Friday announced recommendations to fill two seats on the federal bench - and one could mean a change in Gov. John Kasich's cabinet.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) have recommended Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison to fill a seat on the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Ohio soon to be vacated by retiring Judge Thomas Rose.

The lawmakers also forwarded to the White House a recommendation that Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge Matt McFarland fill the seat on the same court vacated by Judge Gregory Frost.

"I am honored to be considered for the position of federal district judge, and I sincerely appreciate the support of Senators Portman and Brown," Ms. Morrison said in a statement. "As the approval process moves forward, I remain committed to serving Ohio's employers and injured workers at the Bureau of Workers' Compensation."

Sen. Portman said Ms. Morrison "enjoys sweeping support for this seat because of her breadth of experience in the public and private sectors, including her time as CEO of Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation."

Ms. Morrison, who would serve from Columbus, has led the BWC since May 2016 after joining the bureau in November 2012. Prior to that, she was a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Columbus.

She has a law degree from Capital University.

Judge McFarland, who would serve from the court in Dayton, was elected to the state appellate court in 2004 and reelected in 2010 and 2016. Prior to that, he served as a magistrate in the Scioto County Common Pleas Court Probate/Juvenile Division. He also served as an assistant prosecutor in Scioto and Licking counties and as special counsel in the attorney general's office.

He also has a law degree from Capital University.

"It is truly an honor to continue to serve the citizens of Ohio and if nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, I will work tirelessly to make Ohio proud in the administration of justice," he said.

Sen. Portman said Judge McFarland has "been a dedicated public servant in the state court of appeals."

"His esteemed reputation is well deserved and I am confident he will continue to distinguished service on the bench," he said.

Sen. Brown said in both cases he was proud to join his colleague in a bipartisan process and thanked both Ms. Morrison and Judge McFarland for their willingness to serve.

Both were recommended to the senators by a bipartisan advisory committee.

The recommendations will be vetted by the White House and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee before being considered by the upper chamber.

### **Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options**

The Healthy Ohio Medicaid waiver proposal appears to be getting a new look by the Senate, but it's not clear if the chamber will vote to override Gov. John Kasich's veto or approach the effort another way.

The proposal, which was included in the previous budget and rejected by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was included again in the current budget (HB 49) but vetoed by the governor.

The waiver has drawn questions as to whether it could gain federal approval due to the lack of flexibility the legislation would give the state in negotiating with federal regulators. Nevertheless, some officials say they are optimistic that the Trump administration would be more receptive to the plan than President Barack Obama's.

"I have had positive conversations with the administration in Washington about the Healthy Ohio waiver," Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said this week. "I look forward to additional conversations about that, whether the language that is currently pending in the override is exactly right or not, or if there's changes that we could make to that as separate legislation."

Sen. Obhof said the question of whether or not the Senate takes up the proposal would hinge on the continued debate over the Affordable Care Act at the federal level.

"I do anticipate that if the Medicaid expansion is here for the next few months, at some point we're going to re-evaluate the Healthy Ohio plan and whether to move ahead with the override or introduce additional legislation," he said.

The waiver request would allow the state to have certain Medicaid enrollees pay into modified health savings accounts, which would be used to cover co-pays. The state would also contribute to the accounts, with that money acting as a deductible. People who move off of Medicaid would then be able to use the money left over to cover insurance and other expenses.

Some, including members of a Senate committee that discussed waivers this week, have said the current proposal might be too detailed and prescriptive, and would not allow the state to negotiate changes with CMS to earn approval. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 26, 2017)

In his veto message, Gov. Kasich said the proposal has already been rejected by the federal government once.

"The Administration shares the goal of expanding Ohio's flexibility in managing our Medicaid programs, and is committed to working with the General Assembly to seek achievable solutions that would accomplish this goal," he wrote. "Requiring Medicaid to seek an identical waiver for the Healthy Ohio Program would be duplicative and an ill-advised use of Medicaid resources."

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), one of the architects of the proposal, said the state is still able to negotiate changes with CMS despite how prescriptive it is in code.

"In terms of flexibility in negotiations, there is absolutely nothing in statute that would prohibit changes being made and then being ratified by the legislature," he said in an interview.

Rep. Butler said the Senate should follow the House's lead and vote to override the veto. He said the intent was never to have the administration go to the federal government and say "take it or leave it" with what was passed by the legislature. Any changes requested by CMS could then be approved by the General Assembly.

"Anything to the contrary, I think, is an excuse for not submitting a waiver that would have meaning for our health care system and truly control health care costs," he said.

#### **Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports**

The number of abortions in Ohio continued its more than decade-long decline in 2016, falling to just above 20,000, according to figures released Friday.

The Department of Health reported a total of 20,672 abortions in the state in 2016, down about 1% from the prior year's total of 20,976.

Of those, 19,543 were obtained by Ohio residents. Since 2001, the annual decline has averaged about 900 per year, ODH said.

The abortion rate was 8.9 per 1,000 resident women ages 15-44, which was unchanged from 2015, the agency reported. There were 142 abortions by Ohio residents per 1,000 live births.

The number of abortions, which has been tracked since 1976, peaked at more than 45,000 in 1982.

Ohio Right to Life credited the decline to anti-abortion policies enacted at the state level.

"This report is further proof of how successful the pro-life movement has been in Ohio" Mike Gonidakis, the group's president, said in a statement. "This past year alone, we saw 304 lives saved from the pain and suffering of abortion. We continue to advance groundbreaking legislation to protect the unborn, and we thank Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for their role in promoting a culture of life in Ohio. By enacting common sense and life-saving initiatives Ohio is protecting both mothers and their babies."

The group touted legislation it's currently pushing for in the General Assembly, including bills to ban abortions due to a Down syndrome diagnosis (HB 214~~2~~, SB 164~~2~~) and to ban "dismemberment" abortions (SB 145~~2~~).

"The historic low of abortions reported today indicates that the culture of life we've strived for is becoming a reality," Mr. Gonidakis said. "That being said, Ohio Right to Life is whole-heartedly committed to fighting for the sanctity of human life, until the Abortion Report is unnecessary because there are no more abortions committed in Ohio."

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Deputy Director Jaime Miracle pointed to an increase in the number of non-surgical abortions, from 1,195 in 2015 to 3,818 in 2016. She said that showed the effects of a change by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to allow for a one-pill dosage of a medication used in non-surgical abortions.

"The real story with this year's report is that Ohio women are accessing more affordable medication abortion at a rate closer to before Ohio law required physicians to use an outdated, less effective, more expensive protocol," she said in a statement. "When health care policy is shaped by science, not politics, women win. This report shows that the new FDA protocol allows women to access the health care they need and choose the abortion method that is best for them."

Ms. Miracle said Ohio's nine facilities were able to provide safe, legal and affordable abortions to more than 20,000 women in Ohio.

"Unfortunately, Governor John Kasich and his band of usual suspects have wasted the taxpayers' time and money in pushing illegal and immoral tactics designed to block access to abortion clinics," she said. "Since taking office, Governor Kasich has signed 18 restrictions limiting access to reproductive healthcare in Ohio. Everyone deserves access to safe, affordable reproductive health care, including abortion, in their communities and we will continue to fight to ensure this is the reality in Ohio."

## **Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants**

People suffering from dementia can receive support in their homes, allowing them to stay out of nursing facilities and assisted living longer, the House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia was told this week.

Joe Russell, executive director of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice, told the task force that providing care for people in their own homes and communities is a quality of life issue.

Family caregivers often face a stressful and constant task of looking after loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia, he said. Providing scheduled respite services and other in-home services can ease the burden on family members without them having to turn to institutional facilities.

Mr. Russell said the Department of Aging has explored a shared living service under the PASSPORT Medicaid waiver, which would allow a live-in caregiver to provide support in the senior's home. He said his group supports the concept but was concerned about the proposed reimbursement rates.

He said the state could also look at programs to allow for 24-hour in-home care for people with limited family supports. That could include a waiver that allows for personal care, homemaking and companion services provided by a live-in provider supplemented by home care aides in shifts, and monitoring technology.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," he said in testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

The task force also heard from Susan Dickey, who works with the Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She discussed practice recommendations as part of the association's Quality Care Campaign.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," she said in prepared testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

She said the recommendations could be used as a foundation for evaluating clinical outcomes for care in the state.

**Medical Marijuana Updates:** The Department of Commerce Friday released information from the applications for cultivator licenses. The business entity and contact information forms for the 185 applicants for those licenses are now available online.

The DOC anticipates awarding cultivator licenses in November.

Earlier this week, the DOC announced that two universities - Central State University and Hocking College - had applied for laboratory applications. The department said it would accept applications from private testing laboratories between Nov. 27 and Dec. 8.

### **Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...**

Advocates in the fight against addiction gathered at the Statehouse Friday in the annual Rally for Recovery, emphasizing the importance of family and community members in supporting people battling substance use disorder.

The event hosted by Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery featured advocacy groups and providers offering information about social supports for people with addiction. Those who received awards included Gov. John Kasich, who was recognized with the Recovery Ally Award for his work promoting policy to fight drug addiction and expanding Medicaid.

Tracy Plouck, director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, said the rally was a way to demonstrate the importance of supporting people battling substance abuse.

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about how many people around our state are actually living in recovery," she said in an interview. "They're in all neighborhoods, all communities, and recovery is possible. I think this is an opportunity to reduce stigma and show that it isn't just individuals who are living in recovery. It's families, it's neighbors, it's employers, everybody can come together and provide support."

Director Plouck said community supports are essential in helping people who start down the path to recovery stay there.

"Clinical services are increasingly available because of the Medicaid expansion and the changes that have occurred in the last few years, but the availability of different recovery supports is equally important, really," she said. "You can connect with sobriety, but you need supports in the community, you need to not feel isolated in order to sustain that recovery."

Speakers included Joe Smith, a father of three daughters who suffer from addiction, who said recovery takes more than one person.

"It takes the community to recover," he said. "Each one of us who recovers helps facilitate the recovery of others."

**Behavioral Health Grants:** ODMHAS announced \$6 million in grants this week for community mental health and addiction service providers. The funding was awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to certified providers who intended to initiate or expand workforce capacity through training, tuition reimbursement and loan repayment programs.

"Ohio, like the rest of the nation is experiencing challenges to recruit, retain and support, on a long term basis, our existing workforce in community behavioral health agencies," Director-Plouck said in a statement. "These grants represent another step forward as we work collectively to build a highly-qualified workforce and significantly increase system capacity at a time when communities continue to face serious challenges with opioid addiction and mental illness."

The department sent award notices to 61 providers across the state, who were each eligible for one-time funding up to \$100,000.

**Pharmacy Grant:** The State Board of Pharmacy this week also announced it received a grant worth nearly \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of justice to fund a two-year pre-criminal-intervention program to deal with prescription drug abuse.

The program will use data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System to identify signs of prescription drug abuse and connect those people with drug treatment or other support services.

"The goal of the program is to prevent addicted individuals from entering the criminal justice system," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven Schierholz said. "By engaging early, we can direct individuals to treatment before they turn to illicit, and more potent, drugs such as heroin or fentanyl."

#### **High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...**

A trial court is under no obligation to wait until the statute of limitations expires to seal the records in a case dismissed without prejudice, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled.

The decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell resolves a conflict between the Fifth District Court of Appeals and the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

"Had the legislature intended for the applicable statute of limitations in a case dismissed without prejudice to expire before a trial court can seal a record under R.C. 2953.52(B)(4), it could have used the language it did in R.C. 2953.52(B)(3) regarding applications to seal records of DNA specimens. But it did not do so," he wrote.

The conflict was certified after James Dye of Pickerington had five misdemeanor charges against him dismissed without prejudice in the Fairfield County Municipal Court. He unsuccessfully sought to have the dismissal sealed by the trial court, a decision that was upheld by the Fifth District Court of Appeals, the high court reported.

Mr. Dye argued that both courts erred in determining that he was not eligible to have the records sealed because the statute of limitations had not expired.

The state, like Mr. Dye, argued that the statute is unambiguous. However, it said the language clearly makes him ineligible to have his record sealed until the statute of limitations expires.

Justice O'Donnell was joined in his opinion by five of his fellow members of the court, while Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor concurred in judgement only.

**Union Case:** The Buckeye Institute has joined a legal battle that could have major implications for public sector unions.

The group filed an amicus brief in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, which is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Janus, a child support specialist in Illinois, argues that being forced to pay agencies fees after opting out of his collective bargaining unit is a violation of his First Amendment rights.

"We are pleased that the Supreme Court will take up this crucial case to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees," President and CEO Robert Alt said. "Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree and forcing them to pay fees to a union in order to keep their jobs is unjust and unconstitutional. We are confident that Mr. Janus will prevail and that the court will rule in favor of the First Amendment rights of all public employees."

**Federal Judgeship:** President Donald Trump has nominated Ryan T. Holte to serve on the bench of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Mr. Holte currently serves as an associate professor of law and the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Technology at the University of Akron School of Law.

He serves as general counsel, partner, and co-inventor of an electrical engineering technology company. He also worked as a trial attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, practiced law as an associate at Jones Day and clerked for a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

**Federal Grant:** An eight-state collaborative formed to combat the opioid crisis will receive a \$1 million federal grant to aid in its efforts, the high court announced Friday.

The Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative - comprised of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia - was awarded the grant by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Our regional effort serves as a bridge connecting key leaders and staff from law enforcement, to courts, to treatment providers, to children services and other aid organizations," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "This grant will go a long way toward helping close the information, enforcement, services and treatment gaps that have allowed this epidemic to fester and grow."

**Volunteers Honored:** Fourteen individuals who lead tours at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center were honored for their service by all seven high court justices during a luncheon, according to the court.

"Your knowledge and enthusiasm are appreciated throughout the building by the staff and the justices," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "I want you to know that. Those of us who work here, and you by extension, as being a face with many of the students that come into this building, are extremely proud of the building and proud of what you do for us in showcasing the building and this institution."

**Judicial Candidates:** The Board of Professional Conduct announced its 2018 schedule of seminars for judicial candidates.

**Disciplinary Hearings:** The Board of Professional Conduct also announced disciplinary hearings scheduled for October.

### **Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad**

An Elections Commission ruling could drastically alter the landscape of elections in Ohio, a former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party said Friday.

Matt Borges, who is now working for the Yes on Issue 2 campaign, said the panel's Thursday decision to dismiss two complaints against the opponents of a November ballot measure could open the door for political campaigns to use LLCs as pass-through entities to avoid financial disclosures.

Dismissed were complaints that the opposition PAC, Ohioans Against Issue 2, intentionally hid the source of its fundraising and violated state campaign finance disclosure laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

Both complaints filed by the Yes campaign centered on the idea that PhARMA, a trade association of the pharmaceutical industry, was used as a pass-through entity to conceal millions of dollars of contributions from the drug industry to the PAC.

"If they had to do some long-term damage to Ohio to get what they want, they had no problem with that," Mr. Borges said. "They have been trying to keep folks in the dark throughout this entire campaign."

But Dale Butland, a spokesman for the No campaign, said the letter of the law was followed.

"If Matt Borges and the Yes side believe that Ohio law should be changed, then they should go to the legislature and ask them to do that," he said.

Mr. Butland also said Mr. Borges complaint about the dismissal is emblematic of a campaign in a "death spiral."

"The reason that they are going to lose isn't because there hasn't been enough debates, it's not because our side is not following the law, it's because they have a lousy proposal that will do great damage to this state and its people," he said.

**ECOT Overpayments:** With the announcement Thursday that the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow will be docked an additional \$19 million for overpayments, one gubernatorial candidate is calling for the school to be "expelled."

Betty Sutton called the school's proposed change in status to a dropout and recovery institution a "sham."

"A failing school shouldn't be allowed to teach at-risk kids just so it can continue to rip off taxpayers. When a school lies and cheats they should be expelled. It's plain and simple. If they can't do basic math, they should not pretend to teach Ohio's kids," the Democrat said.

"It is beyond ridiculous that a sham school that leads Ohio in dropouts would be designated a dropout recovery school. We need to make Ohio the opportunity state by providing a good education for our children and that starts with expelling ECOT."

A Department of Education audit found that ECOT last year over-reported the number of full-time students it enrolls by 18.5% (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

The online charter school has already been ordered to repay \$60 million from the 2015-16 school year.

**Renacci Ad:** Those watching the Cleveland Browns take on the Cincinnati Bengals this weekend will not be learning about U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's gubernatorial campaign.

The Alliance Republican announced Friday that he has canceled a \$20,000 ad buy during the game in the wake of a growing number of NFL players using the National Anthem as a platform to protest what they believe is racial injustice.

"While the First Amendment clearly affords NFL players and officials the freedom to engage in this appalling behavior, having the right to do something does not mean it's the right thing to do. Throughout our nation's history, countless American men and women of all backgrounds and races have sacrificed deeply to protect and preserve the ideals that our nation and its flag stand for - and our National Anthem serves as a tribute to that sacrifice that we should honor, not disparage," he said.

"And while the right to speak and protest peacefully is a fundamental freedom that we as Americans enjoy, protesting the most sacred symbols of those freedoms is both sadly ironic and an inexcusable, offensive display of contempt for what our nation stands for."

**Harbaugh Endorsement:** Ken Harbaugh, who is seeking to oust U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeview), announced that the Communications Workers of America has endorsed his candidacy in the 7th Congressional District.

"I am honored to have this endorsement from CWA. Ohio workers are among the best in the world. We need to fight for fair trade agreements and give our hard-working men and women a level playing field on which to compete," the Democrat said. "Folks working full-time jobs can and should be able to support their families. CWA is fighting for these improvements and so am I."

Added CWA District 4 Vice President Linda Hinton: "Ken's education, military background, and the fact he has spent a life helping others, show the experience and character needed to make workers and working families a priority."

#### **Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA**

Ohio's minimum wage will rise to \$8.30 per hour next year, up about 2% alongside the rate of inflation, the Department of Commerce announced Friday.

The \$8.30 wage applies to non-tipped employees at businesses with gross annual receipts of more than \$305,000 per year. For tipped employees, the new minimum wage will be \$4.15 per hour.

The current minimum wage is \$8.15 for non-tipped employees and \$4.08 for tipped employees.

For people who work at companies with gross receipts below \$305,000, and for 14- and 15-year-olds, the minimum wage will be the federal rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The state increase stems from an increase of 1.9% in the consumer price index.

**Public Utilities:** The Power Siting Board will hold a hearing Dec. 5 to allow the public to voice views about a proposal by Vinton Solar Energy LLC to build a solar-powered electric generation facility in Vinton county.

The hearing will take place at 6 p.m. that day at the Vinton County Community Building in McArthur.

The proposed facility would include arrays of solar panels with a combined generating capacity of up to 125 megawatts. It would be located on 1,950 acres of leased land in Elk Township, and the facility would be connected to the grid through American Electric Power's nearby Elk substation.

The adjudicatory hearing in the case will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at the PUCO offices in Columbus.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture:** The department will award a \$22,910 solid waste management grant to Mahoning County, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) announced. The money will help fund the county's solid waste management district's rural recycling education and awareness program.

"I am pleased to announce this federal funding for Mahoning County," Rep. Ryan said in a statement.

"When it comes to preserving our environment for our kids, like many other issues, change starts at home. I am encouraged to see state and local governments like Mahoning County continuing to lead the charge on sustainability education. This funding will give rural Mahoning County an important boost, and represents a crucial federal investment. As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to fight to bring these important funds back to Northeast Ohio."

**Agriculture:** Gov. John Kasich on Friday signed an executive order creating an emergency rule on inflatable amusement ride safety inspections related to a change in the biennial budget bill.

The measure (HB 49) eliminated the statutory inspection fee for rides and granted authority to the Department of Agriculture director to develop rules for the fee structure.

The emergency rule announced in the EO will fill the gap until ODO develops the final rules for the inspections.

### **Governor's Appointments**

**State Dental Board:** Theodore T. Bauer, DDS of Columbus for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending April 6, 2021.

**Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board:** Jaime L. Darr, DDS of Massillon for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending January 28, 2019.

**Ohio Expositions Commission:** John R. Page of Lewis Center for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending December 1, 2020.

## **Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated**

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com).

## **Attorney General's Opinion**

No. 2017-032. Requested by Williams County Prosecuting Attorney Katherine J. Zartman. **SYLLABUS:**

A person may not serve simultaneously as prosecuting attorney of Williams County and member of a joint-county board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services of a joint-county alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district of which Williams County is a part.

## **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

### **Monday, October 2**

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

### **Tuesday, October 3**

BRAC & Military Affairs Task Force, Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, 7370 Minuteman Way, Columbus, 1 p.m.

### **Wednesday, October 4**

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Real Estate Commission, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.

### **Thursday, October 5**

Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Room 11B, Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

### **Friday, October 6**

Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m.

## **Supplemental Event Planner**

### **Tuesday, October 3**

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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**Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.**

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## Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 10/2/2017

### Monday, October 2

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 3

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of William Sanderson, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

HB 52 DEED SOLICITATION (Rezabek, J.) To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 120 DEBT ADJUSTING (Eklund, J.) Regarding debt adjusting (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

SB 121 MAMMOGRAM COVERAGE (Eklund, J.) To include tomosynthesis as part of required screening mammography benefits under health insurance policies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 169 TRAVEL INSURANCE (Wilson, S.) To oversee the sale of travel insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 199 MORTGAGE LENDING (Blessing, L.) To create the Ohio Residential Mortgage Lending Act for the purpose of regulating all non-depository lending secured by residential real estate and to limit the application of the current Mortgage Loan Law to unsecured loans and loans secured by other than residential real estate. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

SB 195 DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 196 BULLYING (Williams, S.) To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 130 FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT (Tavares, C.) To add two judges to the Domestic Relations Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 150 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Brown, E.) To prohibit a person convicted of domestic violence or assault of a family member, or a person subject to certain protection orders, from having a firearm; to establish a procedure for surrendering all firearms in the person's possession; and to name the act the "Domestic Violence Survivors Protection Act." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 138 INMATE SEARCHES (Eklund, J.) To authorize a corrections officer to cause a body cavity search to be conducted, to establish separate rules and restrictions for conducting strip searches, and to limit the right of any person to commence a civil action for a violation of the law governing body cavity searches and strip searches to violations related to body cavity searches. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 6 EXTRADITION (O'Brien, S.) To urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States to compel Brazil to extradite Claudia Hoerig to stand trial for the aggravated murder of her husband, Major Karl Hoerig, and to request that the United States terminate foreign aid payments to Brazil if Claudia Hoerig is not extradited. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 10 GAULT DECISION (Thomas, C.) To recognize 2017 as the fiftieth anniversary of *In re Gault*. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 171 PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.) To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m.
- Presentation from Dr. Robert Applebaum of the Scripps Gerontology Center: "Policy Does Matter: Continued Progress in Providing Long Term Services and Supports for Ohio's Older Population"
- HB 286 PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.) To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)
- House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 116, 3 p.m.
- HB 239 SECURITY RESOURCES (Smith, R., Carfagna, R.) To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Joshua Cox, Benjamin Fields and Megan Marchal, State Board of Pharmacy; Michael Gonidakis, State Medical Board and Robert Schuerger, II, Ohio Athletic Commission
- HB 145 CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.) To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 143 DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.) To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness Day' in Ohio. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 111 MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

## Wednesday, October 4

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 118 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS ([Merrin, D.](#)) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 186 BUSINESS INCOME ([Peterson, B.](#)) To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & Interested party)

HB 69 TIF DISTRICTS ([Cupp, R.](#)) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- Presentations on autonomous and connected vehicles from Jonathan Weinberger, VP of Innovation and Technology for the Auto Alliance and Josh Fisher, manager state government affairs for Global Automakers

## Tuesday, October 10

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

- If needed  
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
- If needed  
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
- If needed

## Wednesday, October 11

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.  
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

## Thursday, October 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

**NOTE:** Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the ~~a~~fter a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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## Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, September 30-Monday, October 2

### Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 12

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

### Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Speaker's Task Force on Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education, and Safety, MetroHealth, Scott Auditorium, Cleveland, 1:30 p.m.

### Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

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## OHIO REPORT MONDAY, MARCH 5

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**Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office**

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**DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS**

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**Supplemental Event Planner**

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## **CALENDARS**

**Day Planner**

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## Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 6

### Legislative Committees

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of M. Beth Trombold, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Gregory Murphy, Power Siting Board

**HB 478** WIRELESS SERVICES (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

**HB 529** CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

**HB 508** OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

**HB 378** BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

**SB 226** TAX HOLIDAY (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 121, 1 p.m.

**HB 501** VETERINARY TITLES (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.) To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HR 298** ALFALFA PRODUCTS (Sprague, R., Hill, B.) To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

**SB 266** CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make

reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

**SB 225** **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Schiavoni, J., Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 246** **STUDENT REMOVAL** (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 329** **PYRAMID SCHEMES** (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

**House Session** ([Committee Record](#)), **Senate Session** ([Committee Record](#)) (**Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357, Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900**), Fritzsche Theater, Otterbein University, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville, 7 p.m.

- Joint convention for the Governor's State of the State address

## Agency Calendar

**Small Business Advisory Council, Women's Small Business Accelerator's ThinkSpace**, 24 Westview Dr., Westerville, 10 a.m.

**Public Facilities Commission**, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

## Event Planner

**OhioLINK, Ohio Department of Higher Education discussion on textbook affordability and open educational resources**, Otterbein University, Towers Hall, Westerville, 10 a.m.

**Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser**, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Granville Township) fundraiser**, Oliver's, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

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## Volume #87, Report #43 -- Monday, March 5, 2018

### Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

The Department of Job and Family Services will refile a proposed rule dealing with child abuse and neglect investigations after agencies said it would lead to more cases and higher costs.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio told members of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Monday that the proposed rules would prevent agencies from making "collateral contacts" before deciding to accept a case. That means they would not be able to check certain details, such as whether a parent was in drug treatment, before opening an investigation.

ODJFS argued the county agencies have long been advised in state guidance not to do so. Contacting other people about a potential child abuse or neglect case before contacting the parent can jeopardize the parent's privacy.

The proposed rule changes were designed in part to incorporate revisions to the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which require more mandatory reporting in cases where children are born addicted to drugs.

The department included the provision preventing collateral contacts before cases to reinforce provisions that have been in guidance for more than a decade, Carla Carpenter, deputy director for the Office of Families and Children at ODJFS, told JCARR.

"The change to the rule merely echoes the guidance that we have been providing since 2005," she said.

Mary Wachtel, director of public policy for the PCSAO, said the rules would make it harder for agencies to screen potential cases by preventing them from following up for more information on referrals before opening an official investigation. It could lead to agencies opening investigations for children who aren't being neglected or abused, opening cases that would require home visits and other costs, she said.

"We are talking about a judicious, somewhat limited use of pre-screening collateral contacts," she said.

Other states allow for collateral contacts before cases are screened in, she said. Those states often have limits, such as that the only people to be contacted would be mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect, such as medical providers.

Ms. Wachtel suggested the department convene a stakeholder group to work out a solution.

"There is a fix here," she said. "We respectfully request that the rules be withdrawn to give time for a substantive discussion and consideration."

The department consulted with stakeholders before drafting the rule, Ms. Carpenter said.

Agencies are given 24 hours to gather information from internal sources, such as if the parent has had previous contact with the child welfare system, and to work back with the person referring the case, she said.

In many cases, particularly those involving drug abuse under the CARA provisions, the person making the referral is a medical professional, Ms. Carpenter said. In those cases, the provider can obtain a release of medical records from the parent to demonstrate that the parent has a drug treatment care plan, for example.

Lawmakers pressed the department on what would happen if the person making the referral was not a medical provider.

"How can you get a written release when you're not allowed to make a collateral contact?" Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) asked.

The agencies would be able to look at the information they have and to ask follow-up to the person referring the case, Ms. Carpenter said. The rules follow the same procedure as guidance in place now.

"They essentially would be making that decision the same way they do today," she said.

JCARR Chair Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) asked how many counties are not complying with the guidelines.

Ms. Carpenter said the department wasn't aware of deviation from the guidance until recently.

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said the agency indicated the rule change would have no fiscal effect for the state or for counties, but it could increase the number of cases agencies take on.

The department said the change only codified what was expected to be standard practice, and increases weren't anticipated, Ms. Carpenter said.

"We have a duty as children services agencies to respond to reports that require our attention," she said. "We don't have control over what comes through our front door."

JCARR members caucused for about 45 minutes on the issue, after which ODJFS officials said they would refile the rule pending further discussions with stakeholders.

### **Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address**

While the state comes in above national averages for the number of residents with health insurance, students enrolled in Pre-K, and structurally sound bridges, it is lagging behind in a number of other areas, a new report shows.

One Ohio Now, a coalition of more than 100 health and human service organizations, labor unions and advocacy groups, released its third annual State of Ohio report on Monday. It shows Ohio's rankings in 16 areas encompassing health, education, the economy and equality.

State Director Gavin DeVore Leonard said it's important that Ohioans have a full picture of how the state is doing before the governor delivers his annual State of the State address on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, what typically happens with the State of the State is sort of cherry picking the things that make you sound the best, the things you feel like you have the most likelihood of succeeding on in the future, and then often times sort of glazing over the things that are really at the foundation of what's happening, particularly in a place like Ohio, where there is just no getting around it, we are struggling. We're having a hard time keeping up," he said during a Statehouse press event.

Gov. John Kasich and those close to him haven't divulged what his speech will entail, but he told reporters last week that it will be "odd" and "different" than in past years. Being his last SOTS address, he's expected to recap his accomplishments while in office and focus on how he's helped to change state operations during his tenure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 2, 2018)

Responding to the One Ohio Now report, his spokesman, Jon Keeling, touted the impacts the governor's leadership has had on the state over the last seven years.

"Jobs are up. Wages are growing. More Ohioans have health coverage. Support for K-12 education is at record levels. Poverty is the lowest in nearly a decade. We're taking better care of the vulnerable and those who live in the shadows. And Ohioans are wearing our colors with pride in ways this state hasn't seen in a long time," he said.

"The governor has set a new standard for leadership here in Ohio, and if those values are continued the stage is set for even more progress long after he's gone."

In addition to showing where the state ranks nationally, the report also compares last year's stats to this year's. As infant mortality, overdose deaths and poverty got worse in Ohio in 2017, the state has improved in the areas of college tuition, home foreclosures and hunger.

Despite improvements in some categories, it shouldn't be overlooked that Ohio still ranks at the bottom of states, Mr. DeVore Leonard said.

Higher investments in underperforming areas, such as K-12 and programs combatting hunger could save the state billions of dollars in the long term because Ohioans would be better off, he said.

Especially in K-12, where spending on an inflationary basis has been stagnant since 2002, it's "hard to be a recipe for success," he said.

"We believe that this can be solved and that's actually what the data shows when you look at what's happening around the country," Mr. DeVore Leonard said. "We're nervous that what's happening is that the legislature and the governor are essentially ignoring what the data tells us about how to move our state. They're ignoring what the data tells us about how we should actually get fit and get strong here in Ohio."

To find the funding to make needed investments, he suggested the state repeal a controversial small business tax cut and increase income tax rates for the state's wealthiest.

Although Gov. Kasich has been a champion of eliminating personal income taxes, Mr. DeVore Leonard said a recent softening of his policy stances gives advocates hope that he could be swayed by the data in the report.

"Over the past several weeks and the last few years we've seen that the governor has shown a willingness to reconsider when the facts are just too clear to overcome," he said, citing the governor's support of Medicaid expansion and gun policy proposals.

Mr. DeVore Leonard was joined at the rollout of the report by Trina Payne, executive director of the Ross County Community Action Commission, small business owner Dan Heck, and Vincent Johns Jr. with Faith in Public Life.

Ms. Payne said she's most concerned about the rise in drug overdose deaths in Appalachia - something One Ohio Now tracked for the first time this year.

"Data shows that we must invest in our future as a state to ensure that these numbers decrease and families and communities are given resources to be successful," she said.

### **Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office**

Public officials who get caught with their hands in the cookie jar would soon face steeper penalties under recently introduced legislation.

The proposal (SB 268) sponsored by Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) would establish first- and second-degree felony offenses for theft in office.



Sen. Wilson

Under current law, theft in office of any amount is limited to a third-degree felony that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

The proposal would change the law to mirror existing penalties for theft. A theft in office of between \$150,000 and \$750,000 would result in a second-degree felony charge that carries a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison.

Sen. Wilson said the legislation came about after conversations with State Auditor Dave Yost.

"We have a different set of standards for theft when it is someone in office, and in my estimation it shouldn't be," he said in an interview.

A theft of more than \$750,000 would result in a first-degree felony charge, making the offender eligible for a maximum prison sentence of 11 years.

In addition, the measure would allow courts to include the cost of a forensic audit in a restitution order when the victim is a public entity.

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) has introduced legislation (HB 391) to include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of an economic loss for restitution purposes. It was recently amended to limit the amount of restitution to be granted for accounting or auditing costs to be reasonable and not exceed the value of the property stolen or damaged.

Sen. Wilson said he would be open to limiting the auditing costs that can be recouped, but wants to ensure that the public is made whole.

"I am open to that but my main concern is that the public not pay and the person who is audited and found guilty has to pay the costs," he said.

Sen. Wilson believes the measure will be well received in the legislature.

"I think it's so logical it will pass unanimously," he said.

Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the lower chamber.

The proposal would also bar those convicted of theft in office from serving in a position of public trust.

"Theft in office is a severe crime that warrants an equally severe punishment," Auditor Yost said in a statement.

### **Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports**

Doctors in Ohio prescribed fewer opioids in 2017, continuing an ongoing trend, according to data released Monday by the State Board of Pharmacy.

It was the fifth year in a row the number of opioid prescriptions reported to the state's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System fell.

There were 568 million opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients in 2017, the report found, down from 631 million in 2016 and 28.4% from an all-time high of 793 million in 2012.

There were 9.3 million total prescriptions dispensed, down from 10.1 million in 2016 and down from a high of 12.6 million in 2012.

"Ohio has one of the most comprehensive and aggressive approaches in the country to tackling the opioid epidemic," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt said in a statement. "Through improvements to OARRS, new prescribing rules and guidelines, shutting down pill mills and aggressive regulatory action against unscrupulous prescribers, the state is making considerable progress in reducing the supply of prescription opioids and other controlled substances that can be abused or diverted."

The OARRS system saw more than 88 million patient reports requested, along with an 88% decrease in the number of people engaged in doctor shopping, the board reported.

"It is widely accepted that prescription opioid abuse often progresses to the use of heroin and other illicit drugs. That is why Ohio's efforts to reduce exposure to prescription opioids are essential to combatting this public health crisis," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The report also found a decrease in the number of prescribers and patients receiving opioid prescriptions. The patient total dropped to just below 2 million, after topping 3 million in 2012. The number of prescribers also fell to just over 55,100, from a high of nearly 66,650 in 2012.

The number of benzodiazepines dispensed to patients also fell, dropping to 233 million solid doses from 254 million in 2016 and 297 million in 2012.

The report also tracked the number of opioid doses prescribed for acute pain, a recent point of emphasis for the state, which has limited the supply doctors can prescribe.

The number of doses for acute pain fell to just under 17 million in 2017, from a high of 31.2 million in 2012. The average prescription also fell from 8.37 days to 7.1 days.

County-level data is also available from the Board of Pharmacy.

The Ohio State Medical Association said doctors have been working to reduce the number of opioid painkillers given to patients.

"Ohio physicians for this entire decade have dedicated themselves to being part of the solution to the opioid epidemic which has gripped our state and we're seeing the positive effects of that commitment," OSMA spokesman Reggie Fields said in a statement. "Through better pain management treatment efforts and clearer state rules and guidelines, physicians are better equipped to make appropriate decisions when it is necessary to prescribe an opioid."

The OSMA pointed to its Smart Rx program, designed to educate prescribers about the safe use of opioids.

"Still, more work needs to be done to reduce the number of opioids dispensed and Ohio physicians remain committed to providing high-quality medical care that is safe and in the best interest of patients," he said.

### **DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS**

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced the filing of two lawsuits - one against a multinational agrochemical company and another designed to halt the possible move of the Columbus Crew.

Filed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, Mr. DeWine accuses Monsanto of producing and selling polychlorinated biphenyls from 1929 to 1977 despite knowing the risk the chemical compound posed to humans.

"Ohioans deserve to enjoy their natural resources without contamination from these toxic chemicals, and we believe Monsanto should be held responsible for the damage it caused," the gubernatorial candidate said in a statement. "Our goal in taking this action is to protect Ohio, its citizens, and its natural resources."

The company did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit by publication time.

PCBs were used in paints, inks, caulks, sealants, lubricants, electrical equipment and carbonless copy paper, according to the lawsuit.

The chemical compound builds up in living things and contaminates the food chain. In humans, PCBs are associated with cancer, skin and eye disorders, reduced birth weight and liver damage.

The contamination has also been found in fish, soil, plants and the air, the lawsuit alleged.

Despite learning of the toxicity of the chemical in the 1930, the company continued to use the product, according to the lawsuit, which alleges Monsanto was negligent and created a public nuisance through its manufacture, distribution and sale of PCBs.

The lawsuit seeks compensation and damages to investigate and remove PCBs from the state's natural resources.

**Crew Lawsuit:** Mr. DeWine also filed a lawsuit against Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer to stave off the soccer club's move to Austin.

The lawsuit is based on the "the Art Modell law," which states that an Ohio professional sports team that uses a "tax-supported facility" and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision cannot relocate without an agreement with the political subdivision. It also must give the political subdivision or any group of individuals who reside in the area an opportunity to buy the team.

Among the allegations in the lawsuit is that the franchise accepted \$5 million in state funds for improvements to parking facilities, the land on which its home stadium sits is exempt from property taxes and the land is leased at below-market rate.

"Loyal Crew fans in Columbus have invested their time and loyalty in this team, and they have allowed the Crew SC to capitalize from financial incentives paid for by their tax dollars. I am left with no other choice than to file this suit to ensure our laws are followed," Mr. DeWine said.

The franchise did not return a call seeking comment by publication time.

AG DeWine was joined in the lawsuit by the city of Columbus.

"Just as importantly, the team plays in a taxpayer-supported facility, and Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer have accepted financial assistance from the state of Ohio and the City of Columbus. State law provides us with this protection," Mayor Andrew Ginther said.

The lawsuit, filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, was the brainchild of Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2017)

"I am very pleased that our state's top law enforcement officer is vigorously enforcing longstanding Ohio law," he said in a statement. "The Crew SC is our team. Our town. Neither the MLS or Precourt Sports Ventures can operate above Ohio law."

### **Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff**

Upcoming improvements to a key tool could provide farmers with more real-time, actionable data on phosphorus runoff coming from their farms.

Called the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index, the resource is facilitated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is soon slated for a host of upgrades that farmers and environmental groups in Ohio say will provide one more asset toward curbing phosphorous runoff.

"The idea is you'll put in real actual data and so you will get really specific information then on how to make use of that data," Ohio Farm Bureau spokesman Joe Cornely said in an interview. "And that's crucial because every farm is different - the soil type, the management practices, the type of nutrients."

The tool is aimed at assisting farmers in gauging their risk for phosphorus runoff. That runoff can degrade surface water quality and contributed to harmful algal blooms.

"Providing farmers with tools to be more efficient and environmentally conscious will help their businesses and their watershed," said Peter Bucher, water resources director for the Ohio Environmental Council. "Further identifying what works best at reducing nutrient runoff will allow more farmers to implement the appropriate practices for their property."

The new index is years in the making and is thanks to a project led by Elizabeth Dayton, a researcher in Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The project was funded through a \$1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and \$1 million in matching donations from Ohio farmer groups.

"The index provides a long-term, average estimate of field-scale phosphorus loss based on farmer specific inputs," Ms. Dayton said. "It gives farmers the ability to compare crop management scenarios and evaluate changes in phosphorus runoff, allowing them to prioritize time and resources when making management decisions."

The tool also helps put Ohio's goal to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Erie by 40% by 2025 within reach, Ms. Dayton said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 13, 2017)

"The index quantifies how voluntary changes in agricultural practices contribute to achieving target phosphorus runoff reduction goals," she added. "If you multiply that by the millions of crop acres in Ohio, the 40% reduction target appears achievable."

Mr. Cornely said solving the issue of phosphorus levels will "take a whole toolbox."

"And this is one more tool to go in that box," he said. "So when you look at this as it's employed in conjunction with other tools - some that exist, some still being in development - this is one good piece of that arsenal we need to fix the problem."

After harmful algal bloom activity in 2017 tied the third worst season on record, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is moving to reconsider whether Lake Erie's western basin should be classified as impaired. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 22, 2018)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has touted record spending on water quality projects in 2017, although advocates said more resources are needed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 27, 2017)

### **House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary**

Republican contenders for the 83<sup>rd</sup> House District seat each say they can bring a unique perspective to the General Assembly thanks to their respective expertise in the medical and business fields.

Cheryl Buckland, a member of the Ohio Republican Party's State Central and Executive Committee, and Jon Cross, CEO of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, are vying to succeed Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), who is running for state treasurer.

Ms. Buckland, 63, was appointed to the ORP's leadership committee in 2013 and has been elected twice since then. A self-described "non-traditional candidate," she's spent four decades working at skilled nursing facilities, teaching nursing students and operating her own extended care facility.

"We have not had a nurse in the General Assembly since 2010," Ms. Buckland said. "With all due respect, we have a lot of people making healthcare decisions without a healthcare background.... I feel I can be a voice for every healthcare discipline."

Mr. Cross, 38, has a background in commercial real estate. He's held the top job at the Hardin County chamber since 2014 and before that spent several stints dabbling in politics in Kansas, California and Texas. In addition to some northeast Ohio campaigns, he also spent a two-year span as an advance man for then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It's his current role, however, that he says gives him an up close look at Ohio's competitiveness with other states and places him on the front lines of drawing and keeping businesses in the Buckeye State.

"Every day as an economic development director, I'm responsible for helping to attract new businesses to our community and our region and helping existing companies with their current demands," Mr. Cross said. "So I think I bring a unique perspective to understanding what it takes to attract a business to Ohio or keep a business open and successful in Ohio."

When it comes to the forthcoming race for House speaker shaping up between Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), both candidates declined to publicly weigh in at this point.

"Right now that's my focus: the primary," Ms. Buckland said. "I know both the gentlemen and I'm happy to make a declaration of support when that's necessary."

And although he said he's met with both speaker candidates, Mr. Cross echoed that sentiment. "My philosophy has been I have to win my race first," he said.

But there are plenty of other areas in which the candidates remain at odds. Mr. Cross in particular has questioned whether his opponent shares true conservative principles.

"I'm a proud Republican who supports our president," Mr. Cross said. "I'm a strong pro-life advocate. I will do anything I can to help save and protect human life. I don't believe my opponent is."

Ms. Buckland denied any claim that she doesn't support life. Still, she said her medical background has given her the ability to emotionally detach from the issue.

"As a health professional I've been trained to put my personal feelings aside and look at what is in the best interest of the patient," Ms. Buckland said. "When we look at issues that create such an emotional response in people what I can do is come to the table and get pragmatic answers. I support life, I respect death but I'm also very pragmatic and an objective thinker."

Although she supports life in healthcare and abortion-related matters, she also questioned whether politicians have inserted themselves too far into the patient-doctor relationship.

She lists her priorities if elected as advocating for farmers, steering health policy and supporting efforts to curb the opioid epidemic - an issue she saw firsthand through the addiction of her grandson. She described herself as an "out-of-the-box thinker" who can bring a new perspective to the drug fight.

"I know what I know and what I know I know very well but I'm not an expert in everything," Ms. Buckland said. "I would like to be a voice when we look at our

entitlement programs - not unlike the drug crisis - and say are we spending the right dollars in the right places?"

She and her husband sold their extended care facility in 2008, but she said the experience running a business will give her valuable insight to carry into the Statehouse. She said her world travel would also be an asset - including stays in Africa, El Salvador, Russia as well as time spent delivering Polio vaccines in Portugal.

Mr. Cross said his desire to tackle issues from the business perspective easily ties into other pressing challenges facing the state, including workforce development, educational attainment, opioid addiction and adequately funding local communities.

"My largest overarching campaign platform is to make Ohio and the 83<sup>rd</sup> District safer, stronger and open for business," he said. "How do we get better and how do we compete and how do we make sure policies are not driving people, business, education out of the state?"

His experience across the country, he said, showed him a new perspective on where Ohio stands in business friendliness compared to other states. He wants to be a voice for businesses large and small and is a strong defender of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, he said.

"We want to make sure rural America, rural Ohio, where you have large corporations to family farms, that perspective is brought into the conversation and policy decisions," Mr. Cross said.

Ms. Buckland and her husband, Larry, have seven stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Among her talents, she lists flamenco and tap dancing.

Mr. Cross, when he's not eating pizza and burgers on the campaign trail, enjoys spending time with his wife, Christina, and playing sports with his two sons, ages 3 and 7.

The winner of the Republican nomination will likely face Democrat Ashley Philipp of McComb who is running unopposed in the primary.

**Subscribers Note:** This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.

### Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Rover Pipeline builders continue to lock horns - this time engaging in a contentious back-and-forth over several land slips posing "serious threat to environmental resources."

The OEPA is also requesting new tests after the presence of a manufactured chemical, tetrachloroethene, was found in some drilling returns in Stark County.

The two issues are the latest battle grounds in the ongoing dispute between the two entities - which is simultaneously playing out in an ongoing court case in Stark County. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 5, 2018)

The landslip issue came to the forefront last month when Rover Pipeline LLC requested the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approve temporary workspace for it to repair 28 landslips in Ohio and West Virginia.

But the OEPA, in a subsequent missive to FERC said the company's online filing was the first notice the agency received of the situation and blasted the company for failing to adequately notify the state.

"Ohio EPA is concerned that Rover and FERC did not immediately bring to our attention what Rover now describes as 'a serious threat to sensitive environmental resources,'" OEPA wrote. "Instead of trying to work around Ohio, we again call on Rover to be forthright and provide us with information so we can ensure the environment and citizens are protected."

Rover, meanwhile, argues the state is attempting to besmirch the company in order to gain more leverage in Ohio's ongoing lawsuit. And it accuses state regulators of not fully reading the company's filings in its "haste to cast aspersions."

"Ohio EPA's letter is the latest in a string of baseless claims regarding Rover that attempt to denigrate Rover to advance its own litigation position," Rover's response reads. "Notwithstanding that Ohio EPA does not have jurisdiction in this matter, Rover, on a voluntary basis, has cooperated with Ohio EPA regarding all of its inquiries irrespective of jurisdiction, including on potential impacts from Rover's construction activities."

The OEPA has accused the company of claiming the state has no role in protecting its own environment - an idea the agency called "absurd."

The agency wrote that it "absolutely" expects "to be informed of these troubling threats" and involved in "permitting of any potential impacts to streams and wetlands."

"Moreover, where impacts have occurred, Rover needs to clearly gain our approval of actions to minimize impacts and repair the damage they have done," OEPA added.

The ongoing tiff over those land slips is just one of the conflicts the parties are engaged in. Another dispute arising in recent week centers on the presence of tetrachloroethene or PCE in some drilling fluid returns along the Tuscarawas River.

PCE is a liquid chemical that in high levels is thought to headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness and other effects and it is considered by the government as a potential carcinogen, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

The chemical levels detected in Rover returns registered below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional screening risk level for direct contact, according to the OEPA, but levels clocked in above the screening threshold of soil leaching to groundwater.

As a result, OEPA asked federal regulators to force Rover to conduct additional sampling along with a separate sampling of drilling fluid source water in an effort to pinpoint the PCE's point of origin.

"These additional samples should be taken immediately and the results submitted to our attention for further evaluation," OEPA wrote.

Rover, in turn, argues that PCE is a "prominent contaminant in the environment" and that Ohio has reported multiple instances of detections in the environment in circumstances not affiliated with the project. The company characterized the levels were "minor and non-hazardous."

"Ohio EPA has documented impacts of PCE contamination in the waters of the state and engaged in several initiatives to achieve attainment," Rover said. "Accordingly, Ohio EPA's new-found concerns are as spurious as they are disingenuous."

#### **New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps**

Rep. McClain has worked in business and currently serves as director of finance and customer service for Doc Investments LLC, an online precious metals retailer. The metals retailer was designed to emphasize a low-cost retail model.

"I'm pretty experienced with the changing of what the business market looks like with online retail and some of the opportunities that go along with that," he said.

As state representative, he hopes to focus on policies that will help build small businesses.

Rep. McClain said another important focus for him is on policies that help families. Rep. McClain and his wife have been married for more than 10 years and have three children, ages 2, 4 and 8.

"I'm about Ohio families," he said. "I value the family structure greatly and what that does in setting kids up, and Ohio up, our communities up for greatness."

Promoting families can help communities deal with issues and help each other, he said.

"I want to be an advocate for families taking care of each other, being good stewards of our children and being able to foster environments where people have the resources they need to find the help that they need in their own communities and foster a culture of people helping people," he said.

Rep. McClain said he spends a lot of his time outside of work with his children and family as well as remodeling his house.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Findlay.

At Bluffton, Rep. McClain was on the baseball team, playing several positions including shortstop, outfield and pitcher. One summer he traveled Europe with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The team played clubs in France, Germany and the Czech Republic, while also doing ministry activities with children and at camps.

"It was almost a barnstorming tour to spread baseball in Europe," he said.

Although he's familiar with the work of the House after seeing his father's experience, Rep. McClain said he hopes to prove himself and find ways to contribute, he said.

"The hat's on my head now and I'm moving forward to do everything I can to be responsive," he said.

#### **Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest**

The Buckeye Institute on Monday unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018.

All told, the projects highlighted by the Buckeye Institute total more than \$18 million, according to the report.

Among the projects singled out is \$4 million for a Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati, \$2.5 million to expand the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and \$5 million for the COSI Connection Corridor.

"If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or better yet, return to taxpayers," Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at Institute, said in a statement.

Mr. Lawson also lamented the lack of funding for strengthening the state's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure and move away from projects of predominately local interest," he said. "Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

**Taylor Endorsement:** Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor on Monday picked up an endorsement in her gubernatorial bid in the form of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

In announcing his endorsement, Mr. Daines said he has known Ms. Taylor's running mate, Nathan Estruth, for many years.

"Lt. Governor Mary Taylor is a conservative who has and will continue to challenge the status quo establishment in Ohio. It is important to elect leaders in states across the country - and especially in the swing state of Ohio - who will fight for a bold conservative agenda alongside the people's representatives in Washington," he said in a statement.

"We need more private sector experience and principled conservatives to tame the over-reach of government at the federal and state levels, and the Mary Taylor/Nathan Estruth ticket are the only ones in either party who bring that for the people of Ohio."

Added Ms. Taylor in a statement: "Senator Daines' support today and over the next 68 days adds to our growing momentum as conservatives across Ohio and the country rally around my campaign as the true conservative in this race."

**New Ad:** Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) is out with a new ad in which he highlights his desire to create opportunities for future generations.

The 30-second spot, "For Them," features Sen. Schiavoni's family, including his two children.

"As a parent, everything you do is for them. The simple lessons, the big decisions, you want them to succeed," he says in the ad. "But you worry - what opportunities will be there for them?"

**Balderson Warchest:** The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson on Monday announced that it has raised \$300,000 in the eight weeks since the Zanesville Republican officially entered the race.

"This campaign has had non-stop momentum since day one, and I could not be more grateful to the many contributors of this effort," he said in a statement. "So many people from my Senate District and throughout Central Ohio have asked to be a part of our campaign because they know that my conservative record makes me the best candidate to help fix a broken Washington."

#### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Thursday, March 15**

Criminal Sentencing Commission, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

#### **Supplemental Event Planner**

**Tuesday, March 6**

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.,  
(Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

**Wednesday, March 7**

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Ohioans to Stop Execution news conference on clemency hearing, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

**Monday, March 12**

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Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Queen City Club, 331 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, 5 p.m., (Host: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Supporter: \$1,000 | Attendee: \$500 to Steve Wilson for Ohio)

**Tuesday, March 13**

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Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) & Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) fundraiser, Pins Mechanical Co., 6558 Riverside Drive, Dublin, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze and/or Citizens for Duffey)

**Wednesday, March 14**

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Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Friends of Bill Coley)

**Tuesday, March 20**

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Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) & Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Hackett for Ohio and/or Friends of Lou Terhar)

**Wednesday, March 21**

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Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

**Tuesday, April 10**

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Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

**Wednesday, April 11**

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Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

**Tuesday, April 17**

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

**Wednesday, April 18**

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Ohio University State Government Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Social: 11:30 am; Luncheon: 12 pm)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) & Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger and/or Friends of Matt Dolan)

**Tuesday, April 24**

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Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

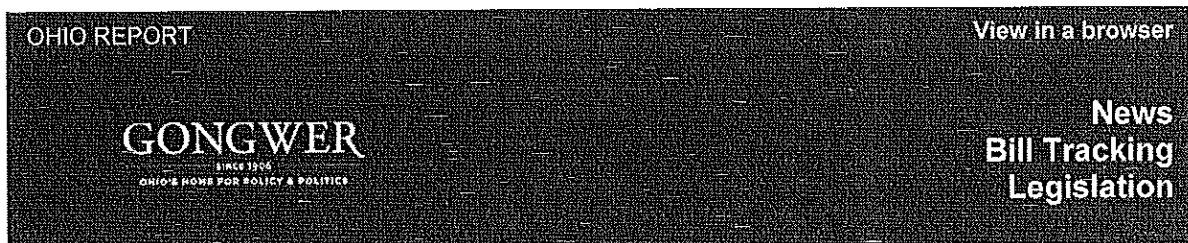
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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## **OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, APRIL 20**

**Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback  
Proposal Is Introduced**

**State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years**

**Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By  
Commerce Department**

**High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case**

**Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary**

**OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle**

**Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine  
Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On  
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**Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...**

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## **CALENDARS**

**Day Planner**

**Event Planner**

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, April 21- Monday, April 23**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

## **Agency Calendar**

### **Monday, April 23**

**Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.  
Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.**

## **Event Planner**

### **Saturday, April 21**

**YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse,  
Columbus**

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215

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## Volume #87, Report #77 -- Friday, April 20, 2018

### Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced

Senate President Larry Obhof this week referred to ongoing talks over the state's energy standards and wind-turbine setback revisions as "a long-term project."

The remark lends further uncertainty to the timeline in which Senate Republicans hope to roll out a substitute bill on a measure (HB 114) that in its current form waters down the state's renewable and energy efficiency benchmarks.

Earlier this month, Sen. Obhof had predicted a sub bill could be ready "in the next few weeks." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2018)

But asked this week about the Senate's priorities in the coming weeks, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said: "We've talked a number of times about energy, and particularly 114 probably now is a long-term project."

Sen. Obhof had previously labeled the measure a priority for the first part of the year but the timeline has been pushed back at every juncture as lawmakers grappled with a congressional redistricting ballot issue (SJR 5), the capital budget (HB 529) and other pressing proposals.

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) are spearheading talks on that sub bill but have said the timeline and the extent of the changes to the legislation remain unclear. The caucus has yet to reach a consensus on the plan the senators presented behind closed doors last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2018)

Changes to loosen the state's setbacks for wind turbines are expected to be a component of the sub bill and advocates have continued pressing lawmakers in recent weeks to walk back restrictions put in place in a 2014. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

Rep. Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) on Tuesday introduced his own standalone measure to reduce setbacks (HB 604). His plan joins several other legislative efforts to accomplish that feat, including proposals from Sen. Matt Dolan (SB 238) and Sen. Michael Skindell (SB 184).

The minority leader's proposal would require turbines to be no closer than 1,125 feet from the tip of a turbine to the exterior of the nearest habitable residential structure. Current law, in contrast, measures the distance from the structure's property line.

The measure would also make permanent tax exemptions for tangible personal property of a qualified energy project using renewable energy resources under certain conditions.

Trish Demeter, the Ohio Environmental Council's vice president of energy policy, welcomed the latest attempt.

"I applaud Leader Fred Strahorn for proposing HB604 - a bill which if passed, would pave the way for full scale wind development in Ohio," Ms. Demeter said.

"For too long, Ohioans have missed out on trends towards wind energy due to unnecessarily large setbacks from property lines. Fixing the wind setback issue is critical for further development of wind energy across the state, and bringing Ohio up to speed in the growing clean energy economy."

### **State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years**

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped a notch to 4.4% in March, maintaining a positive trend of recent months and reflecting the best report since August 2001, according to the Department of Job and Family Services.

The March rate was a drop from 4.5% in February 2018, the agency reported. Total employment increased 10,800 over the month to 5,579,200, and the number of unemployed was down 9,000 to 253,000.

The unemployment total has dropped by 40,000 since March 2017, when the rate was 5.1%, and the state has seen an increased of 54,400 jobs during that period, according to state data compiled in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Another strong jobs report out today," Gov. John Kasich stated on his Twitter account. His statement was accompanied by a GIF of actor Chuck Norris giving a thumbs-up.

"Since 2011, Ohioans have created 501,000 new private sector jobs, and unemployment is the best it's been since 2001," Mr. Kasich said. "We've come a long way since 2010. Let's keep it going, Ohio!"

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the number of new private jobs reflected an important milestone for the state. The positive news shows the GOP-run legislature's policies are working, he said.

"We work diligently to not only create an environment of possibilities for Ohio's job creators but also to ensure Ohioans from all backgrounds are prepared to take advantage of those opportunities," Sen. Obhof said in a release.

"We've done this through creating a jobs-friendly business environment, developing a jobs-ready workforce and empowering Ohio's small businesses, the backbone of our economy. While this is an important milestone that shows Ohio's policies are working, we have much more to do, and we will continue to build on this progress."

Despite the recent gains, Ohio still lags the nation, as the U.S. unemployment rate for March was 4.1%. That figure was unchanged from February and down from 4.5% in March 2017.

During a month when most sectors saw job gains, the best performers were the private service-providing sector, which added 5,700 positions, as well as trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,400). ODJFS noted the most significant losses in information (-700) and other services (-500).

Agency spokesman Bret Crow said eight industries or sub-sectors experienced record-high employment levels. They are: transportation, warehousing and utilities; finance and insurance; educational and health services; educational services; health care and social assistance; leisure and hospitality; accommodation and food services; and state government.

The March gains in the construction industry, which was up 1,200 jobs, represented the third consecutive month of steady job growth in the sector, which has gained 5,700 jobs over the last year, Mr. Crow said.

In addition, the state versus federal comparison on job growth favored Ohio, as the state added jobs at a rate that was more than double the national rate, or 0.19% versus 0.07%, he said. And the average weekly earnings for Ohioans is up \$3.14 compared to last month and \$28.45 compared to last year, both outperforming the national rate.

"It's an across-the-board positive report with lower unemployment and new job growth that doubled the nation's," Mr. Crow said.

Andrew J. Kidd, senior economist with the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute, said the latest jobs report shows "Ohio's job market is allowing individuals who desire jobs to get jobs."

"However, Ohio has yet to reach the national unemployment rate of 4.1%, he added. "This, as well as a labor force participation rate lower than the national average, shows that Ohio still has work to do. The right reforms, such as closing tax loopholes and removing unnecessary barriers to employment through occupational licensing, would create opportunities for sustained job growth."

"Ohio in 2018 has experienced positive job growth. Yet, another month of an unchanged labor force participation rate once again implies that some individuals are still not searching for jobs," Mr. Kidd added.

Hannah Halbert, researcher with Policy Matters Ohio, said the state has gained more jobs in the first three months of 2018 than in all of 2017.

"While labor force participation suggests there is still room for improvement, Ohio's labor market is finally tightening," she said. "Even so, many jobs pay too little and offer too-few hours, making it nearly impossible to afford basics like food and health care without

public support. Raising the minimum wage, restoring the 40-hour work week, and supporting paid leave would make the most of this tighter labor market and help rebuild a path to the middle class."

Ms. Halbert said Ohio continues to underperform the nation's 12-month rate for job growth and has "vastly underperformed" the rest of the U.S. since the 2005 tax overhaul was enacted.

"Ohio is not out of the woods. A bad month or two could erase this streak and more months of solid growth are needed to take up the remaining slack in our labor market," she said.

### **Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By Commerce Department**

A senator who sponsored legislation to require an audit of the medical marijuana licensing process said he's supportive of efforts by the Department of Commerce to perform its own review.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) introduced a proposal (SB 264) in February to require a state auditor investigation of DOC's awarding of provisional licenses for medical marijuana growers, including a set timeframe for the review and the awarding of certificates of operation.

It was intended to remove any clouds of suspicion or impropriety from the licensing process, the sponsor said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2018)

That measure had its first hearing this week in the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Since February, DOC and other agencies involved in the medical marijuana program have worked to tamp down expectations for the initiative's Sept. 8 go-live date, saying it's unlikely all license recipients will be operational by then. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

The agency worked with an attorney general-appointed special counsel to hire a third-party auditor to review the scoring and find possible improvements. The department reported Friday that Ernst & Young was retained for the work, which does not have a set deadline for completion but is expected to take "a matter of weeks" to finish.

Sen. Coley complimented the department on that effort and said the goal of his legislation is simply to ensure the state has a fair process.

"You could easily argue that they're already doing those things," he said in an interview. "I want to make sure it gets done and it gets followed through."

He encouraged the department to work with the auditor's office to ensure the process is thoroughly reviewed.

"I support Commerce going through and looking at the whole thing, re-scoring if necessary and awarding additional licenses if warranted," he said. "I think that's all a good thing and it would be for the benefit of all patients and the state of Ohio."

Sen. Coley said he's confident the department will correct any issues.

"I think they realize that some mistakes were made and they want to correct them," he said.

DOC will go before the Controlling Board Monday to request more than \$5 million for staffing, legal costs and other expenses for the medical marijuana program. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 16, 2018)

### **High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case**

The battle over automated traffic cameras will continue next week with the latest front being the Ohio Supreme Court.

The city of Toledo and the state are at odds over a previous budget (HB64, 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly) provision that allows the state to reduce Local Government Fund distributions for non-compliance with traffic camera restrictions (SB342, 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly), some of which were struck down by the high court. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

Ten days prior to the traffic camera restrictions becoming law, the city asked for and received an injunction from the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, the high court reported.

Lawmakers then passed the biennial budget containing the LGF reduction provisions. The city again asked for and received an injunction from the trial court, which found the state would be in contempt if it withheld funding from cities based on non-compliance with a law found to be unconstitutional.

The Sixth District Court of Appeals upheld the ruling, leading to the state appeal to the high court, where it argues the budget provision is a reporting requirement and a formula for discretionary spending. (Docket)

"Toledo has no 'home rule' right to receive money from the General Assembly," the state writes in a brief. "It is not 'losing' money that it has, but rather choosing to give up money in order to run its traffic-camera program as it sees fit."

The state also contends that the city should have been required to file a separate lawsuit in the matter and that the injunction is a violation of separation of powers.

"The Sixth District's holding invades the legislative power and exceeds the judicial power because courts do not have roving license to enjoin legislation," the state argues. "Courts must instead draw the power to block legislation from specific constitutional prohibitions."

The city, however, claims that lawmakers are seeking to coerce compliance with unconstitutional laws.

It also argues that the state is the guilty party when it comes to the violation of separation of powers.

"If the General Assembly could simply ignore the judicial branch any time legislation is struck by withholding funds to those entities that do not comply with the unconstitutional legislative acts, then there is no separation of powers because the legislature would reign supreme," the city writes in its brief.

"This type of legislation is not a 'new' law that merits a separate lawsuit and separate constitutional analysis, but moreover an affront to the authority of the judiciary. The Penalty Provisions try to avoid judicial control by reenacting unconstitutional laws."

The case is slated for oral arguments as another measure (HB 410) authored by the primary sponsor of the 2014 law works its way through the General Assembly.

Rep. Bill Seitz's (R-Cincinnati) legislation would eliminate the use of administrative hearings when a civil citation is issued for a traffic violation recorded by a photo-monitoring device and require local governments that use traffic-monitoring devices to annually file a report with the tax commissioner detailing how much revenue is generated from their use which will then be subtracted from the LGF distribution.

The court will hear three other cases next week:

- In *State v. Dunson*, a Montgomery County man convicted of murder and aggravated robbery will ask the justices to set aside \$6,199 in court costs.
- The court in *East Manufacturing v. Testa* will determine if a Portage County company is eligible for a use tax exemption for the purchase of natural gas it uses to heat six buildings where aluminum truck trailers are constructed.
- A bank will argue that despite federal rules requiring a face-to-face meeting with a borrower after three missed mortgage payments prior to proceeding with a foreclosure it should be allowed to move forward because the meeting occurred during court-ordered mediation after the second attempt to foreclose in the case of *Wells Fargo Bank v. Burd*.

**Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary**

A Columbus City School Board member and a law clerk with a background in youth advocacy each say their breadth of experience make them the ideal candidates for the 26<sup>th</sup> House District.

The Democrat-leaning district is currently represented by Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), whose bid for the Senate is opening the path for a new face. Michael Cole, 45, and Erica Crawley, 37, are both working to secure the Democratic nomination, after which the victor will likely face Republican Shareeqe Sadiq in November.

Mr. Cole said he has a track record of "having gotten things done in the most tough circumstances" thanks to his two terms on the school board.

"It's one thing when the whole deck's lined up for you and you're accomplishing some things of the work and will of people," he said. "It's another to have every kind of almost insurmountable obstacle against you whether it's state, federal, local discontent for something and still move the needle of achievement."

Ms. Crawley, while touting her own experience, credits her desire to enter public office to her great aunt who in 2007, shortly before her death, asked her during a conversation on political leaders, "Why not you?"

"She was never elected, never interested in politics per se, but she gave her time," Ms. Crawley said. "She spent a lot of time with the church, with homeless families. She never met an enemy. People loved my aunt and she loved people. I would hope she would be proud of me if I could be half the woman she was and make the impact she made."

Mr. Cole is originally from Cleveland but first came to Columbus as a student at Ohio State University. "This city kind of had me at hello," he said.

He picked up a master's degree in communication at Seton Hall University and then chose to return to Columbus where he sought out service opportunities including a five-year stint as area commissioner in Westgate.

"The opportunity and potential that this city offers I think is tremendous," Mr. Cole said. "I think it was almost a spiritual calling to end up in this city."

He said he worked on neighborhood safety and beautification issues, before segueing into politics and hosting a public affairs radio show. He was first elected to the school board in 2013 and reelected last year. He's currently vice president of the board, which is dominated by Democrats.

"I came with the mindset of working to ensure and strengthen accountability, curriculum, transparency and safety in the district," Mr. Cole said. "I'm committed to bringing that same mindset to the Statehouse."

Even though it contains solely Democrats, he said, the school board has taught him valuable lessons.

"Even if everyone's on the same page from the politics standpoint everyone brings different points of view, skills, knowledge and attitude," Mr. Cole said. "Working among a body politic making decisions and brokering decisions...on matters that effect people is something I've tremendously learned from this experience."

Ms. Crawley is also a transplant, hailing originally from Youngstown. She spent 2000-2003 serving in the United States Navy in Virginia. After giving birth to twin girls - Hope and Faith, who are now 13 - she moved to Cleveland where she finished her college degree in criminology with a focus on juvenile delinquency.

Next was a stint in Atlanta where she received her masters and had an array of jobs centered on supporting youth including work for the Black Child Development Institute and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

She returned to Columbus where she attended Capital University Law School, graduating in 2017 with a concentration in civil litigation. Following that, she clerked for Honda North America and since 2016 has clerked for Eastman and Smith's Columbus office.

Both candidates list education as a central plank of their platforms. For Ms. Crawley that means ensuring equal access to quality education.

"I am an advocate for universal Pre-K," she said. "But also making sure all of our children have the same opportunities. Addressing school funding and school resources definitely plays a part."

She said she also wants to expand trade school options for young students and to focus on economic development.

"Especially in the 26<sup>th</sup> District there is disinvestment and underinvestment in that community," she said. "I would love to focus on micro-business and small businesses and making sure my neighbors have access to those resources."

She added she'd press for equal access in other areas, such as healthcare, including addiction and mental health support services.

"With that, making sure our aging population has the services they need," Ms. Crawley added. "There are a lot of grandparents taking care of their grandchildren and they don't have the resources necessary to do that effectively."

On the education front, Mr. Cole said he wants to restore consistency, including possibly by requiring five-year curriculum plans. He likened his experience on the board to being Harry Houdini locked in a box with the key inside as he's thrown over Niagara Falls.

"I find out a lot of what confines public schools period...is they are all boxed in by state laws that don't take consideration to how certain things affect us," he said. "From funding to property taxes to education and curriculum and how important it is to make sure it's steady, consistent."

In other areas, Mr. Cole said he wants to alleviate property tax burdens and create more opportunities for mixed income housing.

"I think there are any number of ways we can look at funding public education that doesn't solely fall on the backs of property owners, particularly in poor communities," he said. "I think we can do some income tax sharing. ... I think there are some win-wins. We just have to turn over some stones."

Ms. Crawley said she's the candidate voters should turn to if they seek experience thanks to a career and life experience span the spectrum from nonprofit to for-profit, military and civilian.

"I've had a commitment to being of service to others," she said. "If you look at my career either professionally or in volunteerism...I have always had a commitment to making a difference in the communities in which I lived and making a difference especially for individuals who come from poverty or low-income families."

Mr. Cole and his wife Lee have three children, ages 21, 15 and 14. He is a substitute social studies teacher who enjoys motorcycles and muscle cars.

In addition to spending time with her daughters, Ms. Crawley said she collects books, particularly of the professional development variety or autobiographies.

**Subscribers Note:** This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.

#### **OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle**

From asking customers to question potentially counterfeit pills to teaching them how to dissolve old medication in cat litter or coffee grounds, Ohio's pharmacists have a key role in fighting the state's opioid epidemic.

That was the message from officials with the Ohio Pharmacists Association to the nearly 1,000 pharmacists and students who attended the group's 140<sup>th</sup> annual conference and trade show Friday at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Ernie Boyd, executive director of the OPA, said pharmacists and the public need to "keep the pressure on" to get patients to request other medications and medical professionals to write fewer prescriptions for opioids.

Boyd said over-the-counter drugs can be a fine alternative to prescription opiates. He said he thinks it was a "major mistake" to allow ibuprofen and other anti-inflammatory pain-relief medication to be sold without a prescription.

"In the public's mind, (ibuprofen) is as innocuous as cheese or rutabaga because it's sold next to those products," he said. "I think that's insane. These are very potent drugs."

The public tends to believe prescription drugs inherently are more effective and over-the-counter drugs safer, Mr. Boyd said, adding that's not always the case.

The convention included a demonstration of multiple ways people can dispose of old or needed medication, from using specialty kits to mixing it with water and coffee grounds or cat litter to make it unpalatable to animals and children. Mr. Boyd said pharmacists can explain the importance and methods of disposal and serve on local drug task forces to assist in the opiate fight.

The group also advised pharmacists to explain the importance of avoiding medication from potentially dubious sources, whether it be an acquaintance or an online retailer.

"The large majority of internet sites are (fraudulent)," Mr. Boyd said. "Ninety-eight percent of the online pharmacies are not pharmacies at all. They're fake."

He said counterfeit pills may look virtually indistinguishable from pills produced by the actual manufacturer and could include powerful opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil. The consequences of consuming the bootleg drugs range from addiction to death.

Mr. Michael Ybarra, deputy vice president of advocacy and strategic alliances at hRMA, said the public needs to get medicine from a trustworthy source. He said buying from "rogue online pharmacies" can be a dangerous move.

"The safest thing to do is to buy at a pharmacy," he said. "The U.S. distribution system is totally closed (with) FDA inspected facilities."

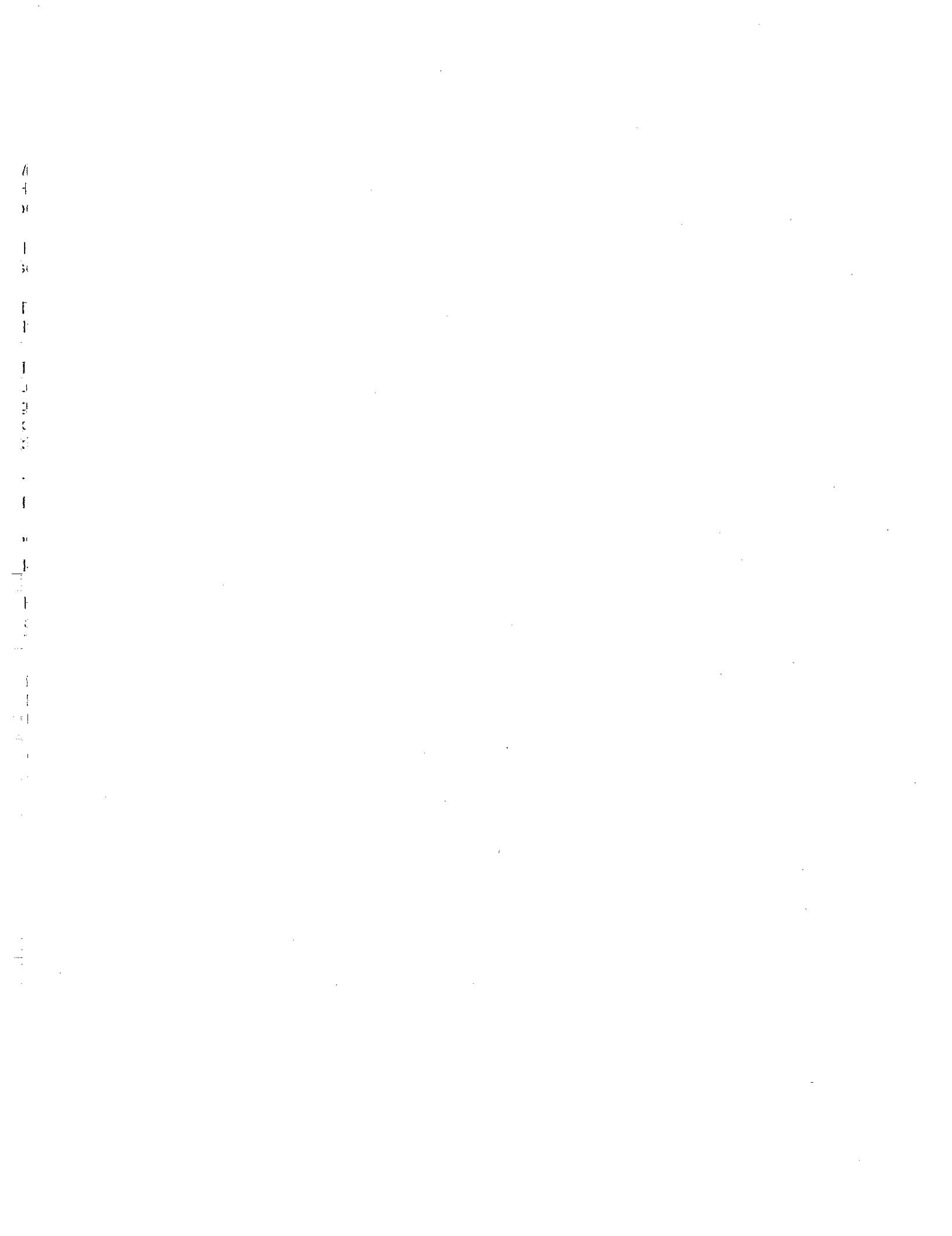
Mr. Boyd said there are some legitimate online pharmacy sites, which typically feature the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice sites logo and have a pharmacy domain names.

The most important advice for members of the public, Mr. Boyd said, might simply be to stop using medication that was not prescribed to them.

"You just don't share any of the stuff, period," he said."

**Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...**

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A Franklin County judge on Friday declined to put the state's medical marijuana program on hold.

Instead, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Richard Frye will consider the matter again at a May 11 hearing.

"We're pleased that there's been a decision not to pause the program," said Thomas Rosenberger, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Association of Ohio.

The Friday hearing was a result of a lawsuit filed by Ohio Releaf LLC, which was denied a cultivator's license and subsequently sued the Department of Commerce for what it alleges is a failure to comply with public record laws and to hold a timely administrative appeal hearing.

DOC has hired an independent auditor to review its processes. (*See separate story*)

**Dismissed Complaint:** A three-judge panel has dismissed one of four counts of allegedly violating canons of the Ohio Judicial Code of Conduct filed against Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick DeWine.

The count alleges that Justice DeWine asked Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters, who had 48 cases pending before the court at the time the complaint was filed, to hire his son for an internship.

The remaining allegations involve Justice DeWine's father, Attorney General Mike DeWine. The complaint alleges Justice DeWine improperly failed to recuse himself from cases in which AG DeWine is named as a party and that he appears on his father's gubernatorial campaign web site.

Justice DeWine has denied all of the alleged charges.

**New Trial:** The nation's highest court has declined to order a new trial for a former state lawmaker.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to grant the request of former Rep. Peter Beck for a new trial. The decision was issued without comment.

Mr. Beck in 2015 was found guilty of 13 charges and sentenced to serve four years in prison. However, a state appellate court in 2016 overturned 10 charges and Mr. Beck served just 16 months in prison.

**Amicus Brief:** The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals asking it to strike down a Tennessee law it says discriminates against outdoor advertisements and signs with ideological messages.

The group said the law, which is designed to be in compliance with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, is a violation of the First Amendment.

"While we all enjoy a scenic drive and beautiful roadways, the First Amendment is even more precious to Americans and its protections must not be violated in the name of highway beautification," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "Restricting the placement of outdoor advertisements solely based on the sign's message is a clear infringement of free speech and must be overturned."

**Crew Dispute:** Major League Soccer and the Precourt Sport Ventures, owner of the Columbus Crew, have asked the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to dismiss a lawsuit designed to prevent the team from moving to Texas.

In a motion to dismiss, the groups call the Art Modell law "blatantly unconstitutional."

"The statute violates the dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution because it both discriminates against out-of-state residents and impermissibly interferes with the defendants' abilities to conduct their business in interstate commerce," the filing reads.

The law requires the owner of an Ohio professional sports team that plans to cease playing most of its home games in the state to provide six months' notice in order to give others an opportunity to purchase the franchise

**Disciplinary Cases:** The Board of Professional Conduct on Friday announced that it has filed 10 disciplinary case reports with the high court.

### **Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...**

The bipartisan Coalition for Redistricting Reform, the group backing Issue 1, on Friday announced a slew of endorsements for the ballot measure.

The endorsements include the Ohio AFL-CIO, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Council of Churches, the Ohio Education Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Farm Bureau and the NAACP Ohio Chapter.

Campaign advisor Keary McCarthy in a statement said the endorsements "truly signal the bipartisan nature of fixing the way we draw our congressional districts in Ohio."

"Our state lawmakers stepped up to make this bipartisan fix to a very partisan problem a reality, and I'm thrilled to see these powerful groups across Ohio come aboard," he added.

**Wells Fargo:** Richard Cordray on Friday weighed in on the news that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau fined Wells Fargo \$1 billion.

The bureau's former director in a statement sought to downplay the role that acting Director Mick Mulvaney played in issuing the fine.

"Mulvaney has brought no new enforcement actions since he has been at the CFPB," he said. "Investigations that take many months or even years, and that are just now being finalized, are due to the aggressive work my team did to bring predatory behavior to light. To suggest this is the work of Mulvaney, who has done nothing but throw sticks in the spokes of a talented, hard-working CFPB team of devoted public servants is preposterous."

**Gun Legislation:** Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) used the anniversary of the Columbine school shooting to call for legislation to reduce gun violence.

Sen. Yuko in a statement commended students who on Friday walked out of school to mark the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school shooting.

"Our young people have sent us a clear message: we need to act now to protect them. The Senate Democratic Caucus has introduced numerous common-sense proposals to address gun violence and help keep our kids safe. Many of these bills have yet to receive a hearing," he said.

"As a leader in the Ohio Senate, I know we have to do more to stop violence in our schools. Schools should be places where children worry about upcoming math tests, and not about active shooters."

**Gun Rally:** Three gun rights groups on Saturday will hold a "Patriot Day Rally" at the Statehouse.

The 11 a.m. event hosted by Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Ohio Carry and the Buckeye Firearms Association will feature historical information on the role of private gun ownership in the country's founding and immigrants who will talk about their experiences before and after coming to America, according to a release.

**NFIB Endorsement:** Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), a speaker hopeful, has the backing of National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio in his reelection bid, the group announced Friday.

Roger Geiger in a statement said Rep. Householder "understands the issues important to Ohio entrepreneurs as demonstrated by his strong voting record with NFIB."

### **Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections**

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) criticized state leaders this week after a recent report showed more work is needed to curb the runoff of phosphorus and other nutrients into Ohio's waterways.

His remarks were centered on the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Nutrient Mass Balance Study. The report found "no clear decrease" in nutrient loading, especially from nonpoint sources like agricultural runoff. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Rep. Sheehy in a statement singled out farmers for their role in contributing to runoff that can fuel harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

"This new report shows that despite years of deceptive talking points from powerful industry representatives in Columbus, we know where all this excess phosphorus pollution has been coming from," Rep. Sheehy said.

"It's not complicated: if you are causing nearly 90% of a problem, you should participate in searching for a solution," he continued. "Instead, their lobbyists have prioritized fighting against policy solutions and even shifting the blame to urban centers that suffer the worst of these consequences."

The Ohio Farm Bureau previously said the report shows that agriculture must play a role in improving water quality. But a spokesman said new regulations aren't needed in the group's view.

**Chemicals:** The Ohio Environmental Council is requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency crack down on toxic chemicals.

The request comes in the form of a petition for rulemaking filed by the council seeking new protections against carcinogen perfluorooctanoic acid and other substances that can be pumped into water and air by manufacturers.

"These companies need to stop emitting these chemicals before extensively studying them, and our proposed rules would stop this dangerous practice," said Chris Tavenor, an OEC law fellow.

Copies of the request were also submitted to President Donald Trump, Gov. John Kasich, Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler, Attorney General Mike DeWine and members of Ohio's congressional delegation.

### **Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...**

For the second consecutive year, Ohio is poised to receive a \$26 million funding infusion to buoy efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

The funding announced this week comes from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES Act passed in 2016. It's part of \$485 million in grants to be divvied up among states this year. Ohio received a similar amount of dollars under the program last year during the first round of funding. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 20, 2017)

"This is good news for Ohio, and these new funds will help our efforts to combat the heroin and prescription drug epidemic gripping our state," U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said in a statement. "This is another positive step forward, but we must do more, and that's why I continue to push for common-sense solutions like the STOP Act and CARA 2.0 that will help us turn the tide of addiction in Ohio and around the country."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) likewise applauded word of the additional funding.

"For too long, Ohio communities have been desperate for the federal government to step up and provide the necessary resources to effectively combat the opioid epidemic," Sen. Brown said. "While we know there is more work to be done, this funding is a meaningful step forward for Ohio. It's important that the state work to get this funding out to local communities quickly as they continue to battle this epidemic."

The dollars are aimed at boosting evidence-based programs and are overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Emergency:** Sens. Brown and Portman also welcomed President Donald Trump's approval of Gov. John Kasich's request for disaster assistance following large-scale flooding in February. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Sen. Brown said the declaration "will go a long way in helping reassure Ohio communities impacted by last month's devastating floods that they are not alone."

Sen. Portman said, "It will allow our affected communities to get much-needed federal assistance following this winter's terrible storms."

**Wright-Patterson:** Ohio delegates urged the Pentagon to pick the Dayton-area Air Force base to house the F-35 Hybrid Product Support Integrator Organization.

Wright-Patterson is "uniquely qualified" to handle that role, which could mean an additional 400 jobs, all of Ohio's senators and representatives wrote to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

"Based on the criteria used during the strategic basing process, we believe WPAFB's workforce makes the base the logical location for HPSI," the lawmakers wrote. "The basing process specifically requires acquisition professionals who are Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certified with tactical fighter support experience, and WPAFB's workforce of engineers, programs managers, logistics managers, and contracting personnel would provide HPSI with an exceptional staff."

#### **Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC**

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind a ballot issue aimed at reforming the state's redistricting guidelines.

The group's board of directors earlier this week voted to support Issue 1.

"The Ohio Chamber has long recognized the need for sensible changes to the redistricting process and we are pleased to join the bipartisan coalition supporting State Issue 1," President & CEO Andrew E. Doehrel said in a statement. "Job creators know the value of a fair and competitive playing field in the marketplace, and State Issue 1 will bring this element of necessary, healthy competition to congressional campaigns, as well."

Mr. Doehrel said the group twice in the past 15 years opposed redistricting efforts that "did not represent a consensus approach."

**Procter & Gamble:** The Cincinnati-based company saw net sales of \$16.3 billion in the third quarter, up by 4% from the previous year.

Organic sales increased 1% for the quarter ended March 31, P&G reported. Diluted net earnings per share were \$0.95, an increase of 2%.

Operating cash flow was \$3.4 billion for the quarter, while adjusted free cash flow productivity was 95%, according to the company.

P&G returned \$3.2 billion to shareholders via \$1.8 billion of dividend payments and \$1.4 billion of common stock repurchase.

"We delivered modest top- and bottom-line growth in a challenging macro environment in the third quarter," Chairman, President and CEO David Taylor said in a statement. "We have large businesses in several difficult markets. The ecosystems in which we operate around the world are being disrupted and transformed. We will change at an even faster rate -- winning through superiority, cost and cash productivity and a strengthened organization and culture."

**KeyCorp:** The Cleveland-based company reported \$402 million in net income, or \$0.38 per common share, in the first quarter.

The financial services company reported net income of \$296 million over the same period in the previous year.

"First quarter was a good start to the year, with continuing momentum in our core businesses, as we grew and expanded relationships with our targeted clients," Chairman and CEO Beth Mooney said in a statement. "Revenue increased over 3% from the same period last year, driven by a higher net interest income, solid loan growth and stronger fee income."

**First Financial:** The Cincinnati-based bank reported net income of \$30.5 million, or \$0.49 per diluted common share, in the first quarter.

First financial reported net income of \$24.8 million, or \$0.40 per diluted common share, in the previous quarter.

"We are extremely pleased with our strong first quarter performance, representing our 110th consecutive quarter of profitability and top-quartile level returns," Executive Chairman Claude Davis said in a statement. "We are also excited about our recent merger with MainSource which closed on April 1st. We welcome our new colleagues from MainSource and together look forward to building an even stronger company going forward."

**SBAC:** Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor has appointed Jennifer Zalecki to the Small Business Advisory Council.

Ms. Zalecki serves as president and CEO of Toledo-based Battery Wholesale. The company, which Ms. Zalecki's father founded in 1983, operates seven retail stores in the greater Toledo area.

"Jennifer has been an effective small business advocate through her service to the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and has demonstrated her high business acumen through the success of her own company," Lt. Gov. Taylor said.

### **Governor's Appointments**

**Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Advisory Council:** Kimpton E. Williams of Waynesville for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending January 31, 2021.

**State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services:** Capt. Kevin T. Uhl of Sycamore Township for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending November 12, 2019.

**Public Benefits Advisory Board:** Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending June 30, 2018.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Monday, April 23**

Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

**Friday, April 27**

Accountancy Board, 77 S. High St., Conference Room West B & C, 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

**17 S. High St., Suite 630**

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Tom Gallick, Staff Writers**

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

**YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus**

Tuesday, April 24

**OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus**

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th Annual Legislative Reception, Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association 20th Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

**American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Advocacy Day, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Davidson Theatre, Columbus**

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Bill Beagle and/or Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Valters at the Mannerchor, 976 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$250, Individual: \$75 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

Thursday, April 26

**Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports**

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000,

**Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)**

**Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)**

**Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)**

**Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Cafè, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)**

**Tuesday, May 1**

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**Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports**

**Wednesday, May 2**

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**Pro-life Legislative Day**

**Thursday, May 3**

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**Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Portage Country Club, 240 N. Portage Path, Akron, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$250 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)**

**Tuesday, May 8**

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**Primary election day**

**Thursday, May 10**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Friday, May 11**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Saturday, May 12**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Tuesday, May 15**

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**Deadline for most public officials and employees to file personal financial disclosure statements.**

**Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Rotunda, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Please RSVP to Stacy Bewley at [sbewley@oahp.org](mailto:sbewley@oahp.org) or for any questions call (614) 228-4662.)**

**Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)**

### **Wednesday, May 16**

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#### **Ohio Auctioneers Association legislative day**

**Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)  
2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Luncheon, The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North Fourth Street, Columbus, 12 p.m.**

### **Tuesday, May 22**

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**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception & Technology Demo, 77 S. High St., Capitol Theater Lobby, Columbus, 5 p.m.  
Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 East State Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest - \$250; Host - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor - \$2,500 to Friends of David Leland)**

### **Wednesday, May 23**

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**Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent Smith Committee)  
Rep. John Becker (R-Union Township) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor:\$500; Host:\$350 to Friends of Becker)  
Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, OHROC , 21 W Broad St. 7th Floor, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Committee to Elect Doug Green)**

### **Thursday, May 24**

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**Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) golf outing fundraiser**

### **Thursday, May 31**

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**JLEC Deadline for filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports**

### **Friday, June 1**

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**Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) golf outing fundraiser, Bob-O-Link Golf Course, 4141 Center Road (Rt. 83), Avon, 9:30 a.m., (9:30am Registration | 10:30am Shotgun Start | 3:30pm Appetizers and Awards; , Avon, Ohio 44011 Eagle Sponsor: \$1,500 | Birdie Sponsor: \$750 |**

**Foursome: \$400 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$125 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Nathan Manning for Ohio)**

**Monday, June 4**

**Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, Crown Hill Golf Club, 9500 U.S. 22, Williamsport, 12 p.m., (12:00pm Lunch | 12:30pm Shotgun Start | 5:00pm Dinner. Tournament Sponsor \$2,000 | Eagle Sponsor: \$1,000 | Birdie Sponsor: \$500 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 | Dinner Only: \$50 to Peterson for Good Government)**

**Friday, June 8**

**House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, June 11**

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser  
Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

**Tuesday, June 12**

**Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

**Friday, June 15**

**Deadline to file post-primary campaign finance reports**

**Monday, June 18**

**Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, June 25**

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser  
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville**

**Monday, July 16**

**Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, July 19**

**Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser**

**Friday, July 20**

**Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser**

**Sunday, July 22**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Monday, July 23**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Tuesday, July 24**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Wednesday, July 25**

---

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, July 26**

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**Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Friday, July 27**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Tuesday, July 31**

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**Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports**

**Friday, August 3**

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**Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports**

**Tuesday, August 7**

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**Special election for 12th Congressional District seat**

**Thursday, August 16**

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**Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, August 20**

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**Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, August 23**

**Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser**

**Saturday, September 1**

**Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports**

**Thursday, September 6**

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports**

**Monday, October 1**

**JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report**

**Wednesday, October 3**

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports**

**Thursday, October 25**

**Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports**

**Tuesday, November 6**

**General election day**

**Saturday, December 1**

**Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019**

**Friday, December 14**

**Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports**

**Monday, December 31**

**All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC**

**Thursday, January 31**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

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**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, May 2



## NEWS

**Officials find flaw with medical marijuana grower scoring (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)**

**Ohio governor to announce chronic pain prescriber standards (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)**

**Ohio's top court to hear arguments on promotions tax dispute (Associated Press, 5/2/2018)**

**Here are all 403 personalized license plates Ohio rejected in the past year (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)**

**Who's who in the 'toss-up' race for Congress (Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/2/2018)**

**As Richard Cordray campaigns for Ohio governor, the federal agency he headed is in trial in Cleveland (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)**

**Conservative Buckeye Institute says bail reform in Ohio would save money (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)**

**Dennis Kucinich says the bulk of his consulting fees came from anti-G.M.O. group (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)**

**Kane launches second ad of GOP primary for Tiberi's old seat (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)**

**Kucinich: I got \$122,000 as consultant for sustainable food group (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)**

**Mike DeWine stresses conservative credentials in new TV ad (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)**

**Ohio asks feds for OK to impose Medicaid work requirements (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)**

**Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)**

**Trump accuser getting donations from across US for Ohio race (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)**

**Ohio may ban free international travel for lawmakers (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)**

**Report: Bail reforms could save Ohio taxpayers \$67 million a year (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)**

**Sexual assault legal loophole prevents victim military transfers, lawmaker says (Dayton Daily News, 5/2/2018)**

**Algal blooms harder to control because of climate change, other factors, data shows (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)**

**Commissioners, state representative advocate for regulation of payday loans (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)**

**Groups explore extent of ECOT 'hush money' (Toledo Blade, 5/2/2018)**

## **EDITORIALS**

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**Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Being mean to the poor in public housing (Akron Beacon Journal, 5/2/2018)**

**Dimitri McDaniel in the Democratic primary for Ohio House 12: endorsement editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)**

**Rick Raley in the Democratic primary for Ohio House 14: endorsement editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 5/2/2018)**

**Editorial: Clarify regulations to finally banish ECOT demons (Columbus Dispatch, 5/2/2018)**

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**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 5/2/2018

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

5/2/2018



### **OHIO'S TOP COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON PROMOTIONS TAX DISPUTE**

The Ohio Supreme Court has set a date for arguments in a dispute over promotions offered by the Cincinnati Reds to ticket buyers including bobbleheads and other items.

### **OHIO GOVERNOR TO ANNOUNCE CHRONIC PAIN PRESCRIBER STANDARDS**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is preparing to announce new standards to help people suffering from chronic pain get proper treatment from prescribers to avoid addiction.



### **KUCINICH SAYS HE GOT \$120K AS CONSULTANT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD GROUP**

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich received \$122,000 in consulting fees in 2016 from a group that works for food sustainability and safety, his campaign said Tuesday.

### **TRUMP ACCUSER GETTING DONATIONS FROM ACROSS US FOR OHIO RACE**

The national exposure that has come with her accusations of sexual harassment against President Donald Trump has translated into an unprecedented number of individual campaign contributors for Rachel Crooks' Ohio House campaign.

### **MIKE DEWINE STRESSES CONSERVATIVE CREDENTIALS IN NEW TV AD**

With a week until Election Day, the Republican gubernatorial campaign of Mike DeWine is airing a new TV commercial that it hopes underlines his conservative credentials — and support of President Donald Trump.

### **SPENDING FOR TV ADS COULD BE TROUBLE FOR ECOT IN UPCOMING AUDIT**

The first report regarding ECOT's operations following allegations from an insider that the school used new tracking software to manipulate attendance data will come from the state auditor.

## **Dayton Daily News**

[www.daytondailynews.com](http://www.daytondailynews.com)

### **REPORT: BAIL REFORMS COULD SAVE OHIO TAXPAYERS \$67 MILLION A YEAR**

A new report from the Buckeye Institute says Ohio could save \$67 million a year in jail costs by changing the bail system used by courts.

### **OHIO MAY BAN FREE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR LAWMAKERS**

In the wake of Republican Cliff Rosenberger's abrupt resignation as Ohio House speaker, state Rep. Niraj Antani is proposing reforms to state ethics laws when it comes to gifts, meals and travel for legislators.

### **MAY ELECTION: BIG MONEY SPENT IN MIAMI/DARKE COUNTY STATE HOUSE RACE**

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars has been spent on the Republican primary in Ohio's 80th state House district making it one of the most expensive statehouse primary in the region.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **AS RICHARD CORDRAY CAMPAIGNS FOR OHIO GOVERNOR, THE FEDERAL AGENCY HE HEADED IS IN TRIAL IN CLEVELAND**

A trial that began in U.S. District Court in Cleveland on Tuesday pits the federal agency Ohio Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray once led against a law firm the agency accuses of conducting deceptive debt collection practices.

### **DENNIS KUCINICH SAYS THE BULK OF HIS CONSULTING FEES CAME FROM ANTI-G.M.O. GROUP**

Former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich's gubernatorial campaign released more details Tuesday about the roughly \$120,000 he received from consulting.

### **RICK RALEY IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR OHIO HOUSE 14: ENDORSEMENT EDITORIAL**

State Rep. Martin J. Sweeney is moving on from his 14th Ohio House District to run for the Ohio Senate, leaving the House seat wide open for four Democrats eager to succeed him -- including his 25-year-old daughter, Bride Rose Sweeney.

### **DIMITRI McDANIEL IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR OHIO HOUSE 12: ENDORSEMENT EDITORIAL**

Several strong Democratic primary candidates are seeking to replace term-limited state Rep. John Barnes Jr. in the 12th Ohio House District, which reaches from a slice of southeast Cleveland to Bedford, Bedford Heights, Highland Hills, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, North Randall, Orange, Pepper Pike and Warrensville Heights.

# THE BLADE

*One of America's Great Newspapers*

## **ASHFORD, FEDOR SQUARE OFF IN PRIMARY FOR OHIO SENATE SEAT**

Imagine that: A hotly contested race without mudslinging.

**From:** Thomas, AJ  
**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2018 11:50 AM  
**To:** Thomas, AJ  
**Subject:** Deconstructing the Administrative State Luncheon  
**Attachments:** Deconstructing Admin State Lunch Invite.pdf

Hello! Had enough of bureaucracy? Tired of all the red tape? Concerned about rogue agencies seemingly operating impervious to oversight? I am, too!

A wise man once said, "There is no such thing as a free lunch," but he was wrong!

On Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a panel discussion of HB580 featuring the American Principles Project's Erin Tuttle, Greg Lawson of The Buckeye Institute, and Micah Derry of Americans for Prosperity. It will be moderated by Representative Andy Thompson. There will also be a free lunch provided by the parties in question.

House Bill 580, adds oversight and transparency to Ohio executive agencies' applications for federal grants, in an effort to control the rise of the administrative state. The discussion will include how the bureaucracy of our federal and state governments has grown over time, and how this administrative growth has specifically hurt the State of Ohio through federal grants and mandates. We will discuss how HB580 will help address the problem we have with a rising administrative state, and institute oversight via the executive branch.

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WHEN: Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00-12:15

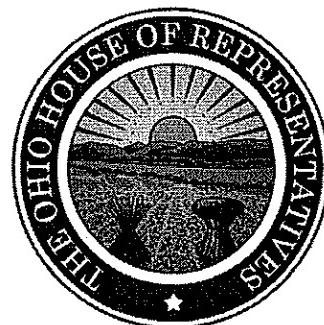
WHO: All Members and Staff are invited

Please RSVP to AJ Thomas ([AJ.Thomas@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:AJ.Thomas@ohiohouse.gov)) by Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> so we may have a count for lunch.

We hope to see you there!



Andy Thompson  
State Representative  
House District 95



Subj: Deconstructing the Administrative State Panel Discussion and Luncheon

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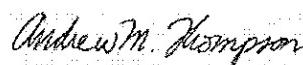
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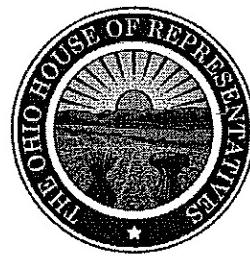
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



AMERICANS FOR  
PROSPERITY

**From:** Thomas, AJ  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 9:34 AM  
**To:** Thomas, AJ  
**Subject:** RE: Deconstructing the Administrative State Luncheon

Make sure to respond by **this Friday 5/18** for a free lunch! See below:

**From:** Thomas, AJ  
**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2018 11:50 AM  
**To:** Thomas, AJ <[AJ.Thomas@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:AJ.Thomas@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** Deconstructing the Administrative State Luncheon

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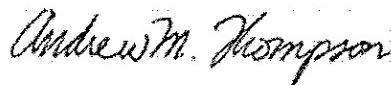
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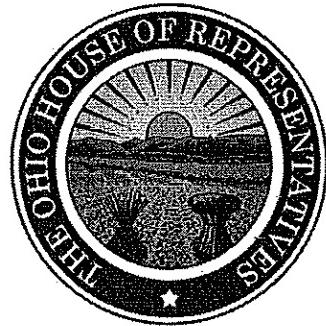
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Andy Thompson

State Representative  
House District 95



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



AMERICANS FOR  
PROSPERITY

**From:** Thomas, AJ  
**Sent:** Friday, May 18, 2018 12:32 PM  
**To:** Thomas, AJ  
**Subject:** FW: Deconstructing the Administrative State Luncheon

Final chance! Don't miss out on lunch and a great opportunity to see what we are doing to control the rise of the administrative state. Thanks!

**AJ THOMAS**  
Legislative Aide  
State Representative Andy Thompson | Ohio's 95<sup>th</sup> House District  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Office number: (614) 644-8728  
[AJ.Thomas@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:AJ.Thomas@ohiohouse.gov)

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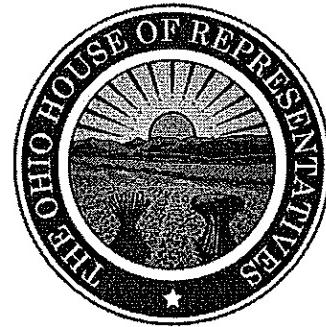
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House District 95



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**From:** Thomas, AJ  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 11:20 AM  
**To:** House\_All  
**Subject:** ALERT- HAPPENING NOW: Deconstructing the Administrative State Luncheon

Come on up to the 31<sup>st</sup> Floor!

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 9:34 AM  
**To:** Thomas, AJ <AJ.Thomas@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Deconstructing the Administrative State Luncheon

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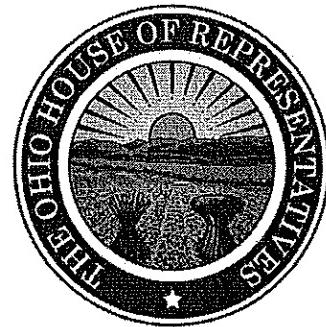
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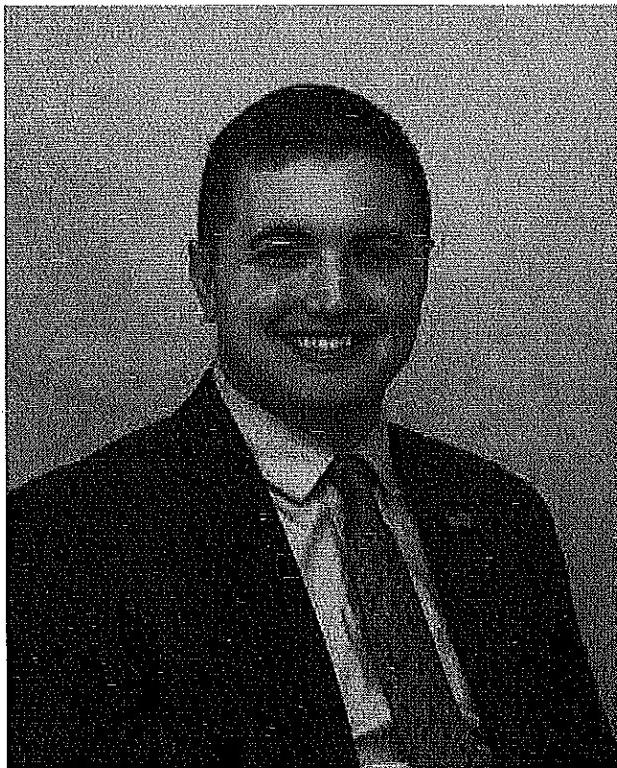
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**From:** Fleck, Craig  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2018 3:42 PM  
**To:** GOP\_All  
**Subject:** New GOP Additions

# WELCOME

When you get a free minute, please make sure to introduce yourself and welcome the newest members of our team.



**Tyler  
Herrmann,  
Deputy Legal  
Counsel /  
Policy Advisor**

Tyler is from Harrison, Ohio and holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Cincinnati and a Political Science degree from Wright State University. Tyler served in the United States Air Force as an Operations Intelligence Analyst NCO and currently serves as a JAG Attorney for the United States Army. He currently presides as the Chairman for the Ohio Chapter of the Republican National Lawyers Association, and as the Treasurer for the Cap City Young

Republicans. Tyler transferred to the House from the Attorney General's Office where he served as an Assistant Attorney General within the Executive Agencies Section.

## James Kennedy, LA Merrin

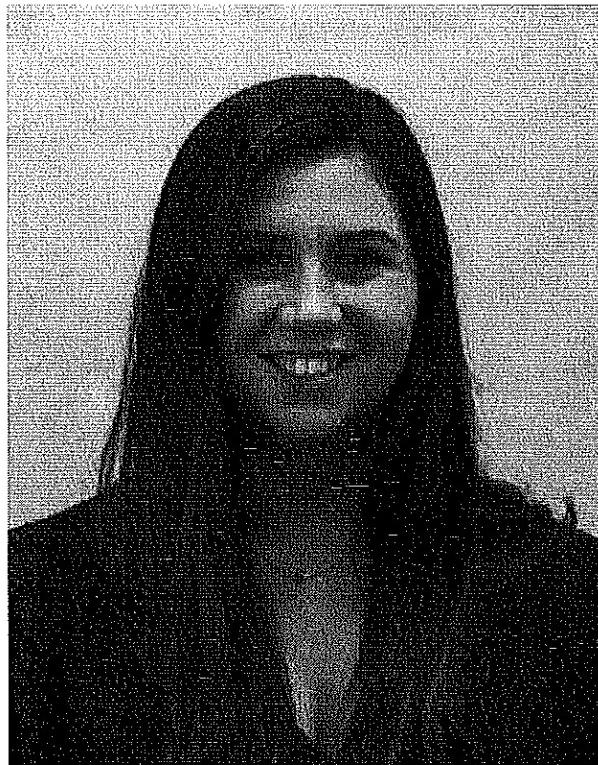


James is from Palm City, Florida and an alum of Florida, Atlantic University where he graduated with a degree in Political Science. While in college he had the opportunity to serve as a Tax and Fiscal Policy Intern for the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). James has an extensive research background serving as a Legal Research Analyst Intern for the Buckeye Institute and as a Political-Military Analyst Intern for the Hudson Institute. Prior to arriving to the House, he served as a Legislative Assistant for the Tennessee Legislation Service in Nashville. In James' free time, he enjoys collecting sports memorabilia and claims to have personally met nearly every

major league baseball superstar.

## Lauren Reid, LA Butler

Lauren is from Madison, Connecticut, and recently graduated from the University of Dayton with degrees in Criminal Justice and Political Science with a minor in Spanish. While at Dayton, she served as a Statehouse Civic Scholar, where she was assigned an internship working for the Governor's communication team. Lauren had the unique experience of traveling to Segovia, Spain, where she participated in a four-week immersion program. During the winter months whenever she gets the opportunity, she enjoys to snowmobile.

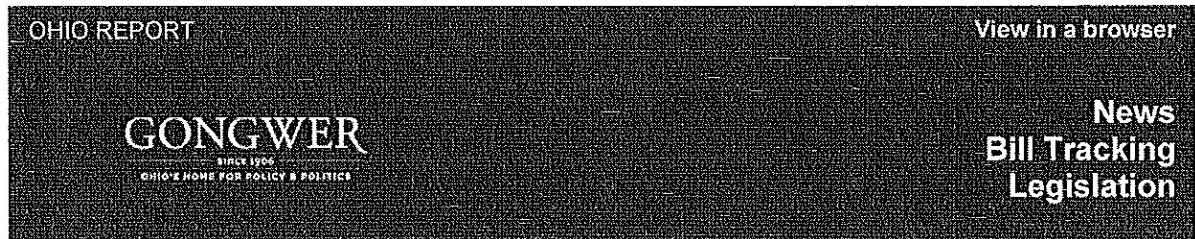


## Craig Fleck

Deputy Administrative Officer  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Cell: 440.376.6098  
Office: 614.466.2175  
[Craig.fleck@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Craig.fleck@ohiohouse.gov)

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 5:59 PM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Friday, July 6, 2018  
**Attachments:** Jul6.htm; 180706dayplan.htm; Jul9Schedule.htm; 180706plan.htm



## OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, JULY 6

**Payday Lending Proposal Slated For Rare Summer Action In Senate Next Week**

**State Touts Mental Health Parity With Managed Care Integration Of Behavioral Services**

**CAUV 'On the Road To Correction' Following Budget Changes, Group Says**

**Ed Board Expected To Debate, Vote On Third-Grade Reading Benchmark**

**Rover, FERC Staff Spar Over Land Restoration, Pipeline Operations**

**Public Comments Continue On State, Federal Lifeline Proposals**

**'Sweeping' Changes In Store After Federal Regulators Reject PJM Capacity Market Plans**

**Agency Briefs: Hurst To Replace Plouck At ODMHAS; U.S. Unemployment Rate Up; OSHP; ODNR**

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**Case Remanded After Judge Cites Article In Sentencing; High Court Denies Stay Of Execution; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...**

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**Legislative Committee Schedules**

**Event Planner**

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**Volume #87, Report #130 -- Friday, July 6, 2018**

**Payday Lending Proposal Slated For Rare Summer Action In Senate Next Week**

An expected legislative break is being cut short for the Senate as the chamber is set to return next week to continue its work considering a contentious overhaul of short-term lending laws.

The payday lending bill (HB 123) is slated for consideration by the Senate Finance Committee Monday and Tuesday, if necessary. The measure is expected to come up before the full Senate Tuesday morning.

The Finance Committee meetings are expected to be the only committee action of the week.

John Fortney, spokesman for Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), said amendments are expected Monday or Tuesday.

What that language will look like remains unclear.

The committee spent much of last week hearing testimony on the measure and weighing potential changes offered by Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima).

Backers of the original language, which would limit fees and interest rates and require repayment to be capped at 5% of the borrower's income, balked at proposed changes in the Senate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2018)

Proponents, including the Pew Charitable Trusts, voiced openness to some changes, such as increasing the allowable loan sizes and rates, that would still preserve the overarching framework. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 25, 2018)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said this week he had prepared amendments to that effect but wasn't sure whether the committee would work from the House-passed language or from a framework outlined by Sen. Huffman.

"My amendments were directed toward 123 based on what I heard in terms of testimony and in terms of what could help within the structure of 123 to increase the costs a little bit to help out the lenders," he said in an interview.

Those discussions have included increased rates and allowable fees, including raising the limit on what a borrower can be required to pay back to perhaps as high as 10% of their income, Sen. Dolan said.

"That would obviously increase the ability for the borrower to borrow more money," Sen. Dolan said. "We're trying to find that fine line."

Supporters of the initial language have said raising the 5% income limit to perhaps 7% or 8% would be acceptable, but 10% could be too high.

Sen. Huffman's proposals would create a framework around the total costs of installment loans, limiting those to a per diem rate based on the size and duration of the loan. He has said the proposal would also cap the total principal amount a borrower could have out at any one time at \$2,500. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2018)

### **State Touts Mental Health Parity With Managed Care Integration Of Behavioral Services**

With the July 1 carve-in of behavioral health services in Medicaid into managed care, the state says it is now compliant with a 2008 federal law requiring parity for mental health and addiction services.

The departments of Medicaid and of Mental Health and Addiction Services released a report examining compliance by managed care plans in providing parity in patients' access to those services.

The state was initially scheduled to show compliance in October 2017 but received approval from federal regulators to wait until the July 1 integration of behavioral health services into managed care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2018)

"That gave us the opportunity to have our implementation dates be the same as our carve-in," Medicaid Director Barbara Sears said in an interview.

The behavioral health integration is a separate effort from the work toward parity, but the state decided to have those dates coincide because of the way it framed its plan with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said Patrick Stephan, director of managed care for ODM.

"What we didn't want to do was have to go through the process twice," he said. "Had we not connected this with our integration of behavioral health services into managed care, we would've had to have done it on the fee-for-service side."

Parity means managed care plans will be prevented from having cumbersome prior authorization requirements, limits on service days or other restrictions on mental health services that aren't used on physical health services, Mr. Stephan said.

"At its core, this act requires us to make certain that within Medicaid, and in this case within the managed care plans' administration of the benefit, that we do not have qualitative or quantitative requirements on mental health services that are more stringent than what you would get on the physical side," he said.

Mr. Stephan said the move toward managed care will also help ensure patients' access to mental health services because plans are required to provide that access and can incentivize providers in order to achieve it.

"In the fee for service side, we had very little ability to encourage new providers into the market," he said. "On the managed care side, we have standards that the plans must meet, and if they don't, then they get fined, they get penalized."

Lori Criss, CEO of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, said parity is key but questioned whether the system has actually achieved the goal.

"Fully implementing and robustly enforcing the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 is critically important to ensure that Ohioans can understand and access the health insurance benefits rightly available to them," she said in a statement. "While we appreciate Ohio Medicaid's compliance report, the analysis appears to lack sufficient detail to support its broad conclusion without review of the underlying assessment documents."

Moving forward, the state will have to ensure parity standards are met, she said.

"The real test will be how well Medicaid promotes transparency and holds the plans accountable for the law's requirements," she said. "The Ohio Parity at 10 Coalition looks forward to working with lawmakers and the administration to raise awareness of the law's benefits to Ohioans, their families and employers."

#### **CAUV 'On the Road To Correction' Following Budget Changes, Group Says**

Budget language aimed at alleviating increased costs from rising Current Agricultural Use Values are having their intended impact, the Ohio Farmers Union told state officials recently.

The Department of Taxation each year holds a public hearing in June to brief farmers and interest groups on the latest values and to gather feedback on the subject.

In recent years, the meetings have been the site of much angst as some farmers grapple with sharp increases. During the 2014 tax year, the high watermark, increases were seen as high as 400%. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

"We had tremendous increase in the CAUV values going back to 2008," said Ted Finnarn, attorney for the organization. "Because of (the changes), the CAUV values have come down and are heading back down to where they should have been."

But the latest meeting came and went with little fanfare, with the union providing the only testimony and praising the recent changes.

"We're finally on the road to correction," Mr. Finnarn said in an interview. "By the 2020 cycle, the CAUV values will be down so farmers have more reasonable taxes."

Gloria Gardner, assistant administrator for the department, said the statewide average value for cropland came in at \$1,015 per acre for tax year 2018, down about 27% from 2015 values which were \$1,388. The values are updated every three years as counties undergo their appraisal process.

"The values are dropping pretty significantly due to some of the changes that were in House Bill 49 in 2017 and this is the second year of implementing those changes," Ms. Gardner said. "The woodland values are also coming down."

The budget changes, which originated in the Senate, modified the factors to be used in computing the values and placed a ceiling on-the taxable value of CAUV land if it is also used for conservation purposes. The changes were phased across two stages over a six year assessment cycle.

"We sort of had a perfect storm - all of these things coming together - and we had extremely high values that were unwarranted and unfair and unprecedented," Mr. Finnarn said. "Now we're on the road to having more reasonable real estate taxes for farmers and woodland owners."

Not all parties were pleased with the budget changes, however. School groups expressed repeated concerns with how the changes might impact their districts, forecasting a 30% reduction in farming property values that would shift the burden onto other property owners.

Barbara Shaner, advocacy specialist for the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, said those fears continue.

"We're still sorting out the results of the most recent information from the tax department but we also think we won't see the full effect for a few more years because not all the counties have undergone their reevaluation," Ms. Shaner said. "We remain concerned and we'll continue to monitor the way it's turning out."

#### **Ed Board Expected To Debate, Vote On Third-Grade Reading Benchmark**

The State Board of Education is set to vote to increase the Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion score next weekend at its monthly meeting.

A proposal to raise the benchmark students would need to meet on the Ohio State Test for third grade English and language arts from 672 to 677 was set for a possible vote by the panel's Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee last month, but it ultimately delayed its decision. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 12, 2018)

The committee is once again scheduled to discuss the proposal at its 8:30 a.m. Tuesday meeting, with the full board expected to consider the resolution enacting the change later that day. The resolution is set for consideration as an emergency measure, so it would take effect before the start of the next school year.

The state board is required by law to review the third grade language arts benchmark and adjust it upward annually until it reaches 700, which indicates proficiency, according to a memo sent to committee members late last month by the Department of Education's legal staff.

Despite the requirement that the score increase, the committee balked at recommending the promotion score be set at 677 last month, with multiple members asking for more time to discuss the potential change with local school district officials.

District 4 board member Pat Bruns at the time said she was concerned raising the score could mean districts' improvements at teaching young readers would not be reflected in state report cards, sending a "false message" to community members.

An overview of the issue provided by ODE to the committee states that: "Because of the state law, the education community is expecting to see a modest increase in the promotion score. No one will be surprised by an increase."

ODE also argues the change in the overall language arts score from 672 to 677 corresponds to the smallest possible increase in the reading subscore, from 44 to 45.

"It is possible this change will not increase the number or percent of students who are retained. If there is a reduction in the number of students promoted, we would expect it to be small," the overview states.

At-large board member Laura Kohler, the committee's chairwoman, previously said she supports the plan to increase the benchmark to 677 because administrators and teachers have been preparing for it with increased aid from the state.

"We're looking at a different landscape than we were a couple of years ago with the supports that are in place," she said.

**Subscriber's Note:** The full agenda for the State Board of Education's Monday and Tuesday meeting is available online.

### Rover, FERC Staff Spar Over Land Restoration, Pipeline Operations

Rover Pipeline operators, long at odds with state regulators, are now amping up their frustration with their federal overseers.

In recent missives, Rover Pipeline LCC blasted Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff for what it considers the commission's failure to authorize full operation of a major section of the controversial project. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2018)

The lack of action on FERC's part has left Rover "more than a little baffled," wrote Rover Senior Vice President Chris Sonneborn. But FERC staff said the delays are prompted by Rover's failure to restore land impacted by the project by a June 30 deadline. The

company in recent weeks has informed staff restoration efforts are likely to continue until "at least" July 30.

According to Rover, FERC staff in May authorized service to commence on a main segment of the pipeline called Supply Connector Line B. But in doing so, staff withheld granting in-service authorization for two laterals pending further review.

"As a result of staff's inaction, significant volumes of natural gas have been unable to flow on pipeline facilities that have been completed for nearly a month," Mr. Sonneborn wrote. "This is unfortunate, because...the incremental natural gas supply that would have been available to flow would have been used to offset the large deficit the nation is facing to replenish storage inventories in preparation for the 2018-2019 heating season...."

Failure to act soon, the company claims, is outside "the public interest." But FERC declined to be persuaded by the company's comments. Staff instead responded with a formal notice directing the company to complete outstanding restoration activities at those two Ohio sites.

"Because restoration of these facilities was not complete at the time of in-service authorization, Rover committed to completing the remaining restoration activities by specific dates," wrote John Wood, FERC's deputy director of the Office of Energy Projects. "However, commission staff monitoring certificate compliance believes that rover will be unable to meet a number of those commitments...."

As a result, staff directed Rover to take "prompt and immediate action" and to file prior to July 9 a detailed account of why the company cannot adhere to the agreed upon timetable.

"Neither the commission nor its staff takes lightly a pipeline's commitments to restore and rehabilitate affected lands," Mr. Wood said. "Accordingly, the commission expects pipelines to follow through on their commitments to restore and rehabilitate land and other resources disturbed by the construction of a certificated pipeline."

In response, Mr. Sonneborn issued a second letter this week leveling further attacks, accusing FERC staff of making "several inaccurate statements" toward the project and the company's willingness to fulfill its land restoration commitments.

"For the record, and as Rover has stated previously in this docket on numerous occasions, Rover will honor and meet all of its restoration commitments - whether those are scheduled to occur before or after Rover is fully in service," Rover wrote. "Any implication to the contrary is simply untrue."

Rover now is also accusing FERC staff of "a fundamental misunderstanding" of how the restoration process works.

"A company can supply ample resources, equipment, and personnel to restoration efforts; however, the variable of weather, and therefore the pace of restoration, is simply outside of any pipeline's control," Rover wrote. "There is no amount of planning or resources that can change the reality that on any major pipeline project there are always going to be changes to the restoration schedule due to events outside of the pipeline's control."

The company's public pushback accusing FERC of stating falsehoods is much like the back-and-forth Rover has engaged in with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Rover and the OEPA have engaged in a months-long back and forth with Rover accusing OEPA of cooperating with the company in private but taking an adversarial approach in public.

That tiff ultimately led to a lawsuit filed by the state, which Rover and several other defendants have filed to dismiss. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 5, 2018)

### **Public Comments Continue On State, Federal Lifeline Proposals**

Stakeholder groups and citizens are continuing their efforts to thwart state and federal proposals that would eliminate in whole or in part a federal discount program for low-income customers.

At the state level, AT&T is proposing to discontinue its participation in the federal Lifeline program - which grants eligible customers a \$9.25 monthly credit - in areas in which another provider operates that service.

But the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has yet to approve that plan and in recent days has urged the public to weigh in via written feedback.

Meanwhile, the Federal Communications Commission is weighing a similar but more far-reaching plan that would largely eliminate the resource for a swathe of customers across the country. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 23, 2018)

In the PUCO case, comments have been submitted from a handful of citizens as of Friday, each urging the commission to deny AT&T's plan and maintain the program.

Several commenters described themselves as licensed social workers working with elderly populations. Others are customers who benefit from the program and who labeled the company's attempt to cut it "indefensible" and "abhorrent."

AT&T, for its part, has emphasized that no Ohio customer will lose voice service through the move but will instead receive it at the standard rate. Customers are free, it said, to receive the Lifeline discount from other providers in those areas.

The move "will have only a nominal impact on Ohio consumers who have demonstrated a clear preference for obtaining their Lifeline discount from (companies) other than

AT&T," the company said. "Over the past eight years, AT&T has seen its own Ohio Lifeline subscribership shrink by 94%."

Advocates, though, caution the move would strip vulnerable Ohioans of a valuable resource. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel and the Greater Edgemont Community Coalition are among those protesting the idea. In part, they've urged commissioners to solicit public input and take the federal case into consideration. (Docket)

In the federal case, the Federal Communications Commission is proposing changes critics say will erect more barriers for Lifeline consumers nationwide. There are about 608,000 total subscribers in Ohio, according to proponents of the program.

The PUCO and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel are among parties that have submitted comments in opposition to the federal proposal.

Under the proposed changes, eligible consumers must enroll online first through a third-party verifier and then through a specified carrier. Currently, the customer can enroll directly through their provider.

Proponents of the Lifeline program this week were denied a stay in the case when regulators determined the parties were unlikely to prevail on the merits and would not suffer irreparable injury.

In response, Q Link, the nation's third-largest Lifeline provider, on Thursday filed an emergency motion that if approved would enact additional changes to enable carriers to collect customer information directly from the third-party verifier.

Q Link serves about 40,000 Lifeline customers in Ohio. Sixty-seven percent reside in rural or suburban areas and 82% are new to Lifeline, which the company said indicates they were previously unserved by and may not have access to other providers.

"The...proposed change will be unnecessarily difficult and confusing for consumers," said Q Link CEO Issa Asad in a statement. "Beyond the impact on rural Americans, which will be significant, the new system's failure to include automated links with carriers will unnecessarily cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars."

### **'Sweeping' Changes In Store After Federal Regulators Reject PJM Capacity Market Plans**

Federal regulators voted along party lines recently to toss aside two proposals from PJM Interconnection to revamp the capacity market, paving the way for a potentially drastic shake up in the months ahead.

PJM in April submitted two competing proposals for FERC's consideration on how to best overhaul the market. But in the end, the commission's 3-2 order went far beyond simply rejecting the proposals and instead paves the way for what one dissenting

commissioner labeled "sweeping" changes for the grid operator that serves 13 states. (See Gongwr Ohio Report, May 7, 2018)

In short, the commission determined subsidies for renewable and nuclear sources have rendered PJM's current tariff "unjust, unreasonable and unduly discriminatory" in that it fails to ensure adequate competition. FERC is now proposing to expand the minimum offer price rule - which enacts a screening process to gauge the competitiveness of new resources - among other changes.

"We find...the PJM Tariff allows resources receiving out-of-market support to significantly affect capacity prices in a manner that will cause unjust and unreasonable and unduly discriminatory rates in PJM regardless of the intent motivating the support," the majority wrote. "We are compelled...to conclude that out-of-market payments by certain PJM states have reached a level sufficient to significantly impact the capacity market clearing prices and the integrity of the resulting price signals on which investors and consumers rely to guide the orderly entry and exit of capacity resources."

Stakeholder groups in Ohio and beyond are still parsing the details of the 106-page order, but they have a short timetable to digest its ramifications. After the 60-day comment window, parties have 30 days for reply comments after which FERC wants to reach a solution.

PJM issued a statement stating its pleasure that FERC is taking action.

"The order appears to be a positive step to change competitive electric market design while recognizing the important role states play in influencing the resource mix through retail energy policies," according to PJM. "We will begin work immediately to develop the kind of bifurcated capacity construct envisioned by the commission and actively engage stakeholders, including the states, within the timetable laid out by the commission."

But FERC's two Democratic members issued scathing dissents regarding the substance of the order and the timeline laid out by the majority.

"Let's be clear: through its action today, the majority signals its intent to adopt, through a 90-day paper hearing, the most sweeping changes to the PJM capacity construct since the market's inception more than a decade ago," Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur wrote in her dissent. "If ultimately adopted, this proposal would fundamentally rebalance the resource adequacy responsibilities of the states, the commission, and PJM."

Commissioner Richard Glick said the commission in its order "entirely fails" to demonstrate its claims the market is unjust and further criticized the timeline.

"Requiring interested parties to decipher today's order, develop testimony, gather evidence, and meaningfully respond within 60 days is irresponsible," he said. "On top of that, this short timeframe essentially guarantees that PJM will not be able to work with the states to develop a proposal that aligns with state policies."

## **Agency Briefs: Hurst To Replace Plouck At ODMHAS; U.S. Unemployment Rate Up; OSHP; ODNR**

Dr. Mark Hurst will replace Tracy Plouck as director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services next week as Ms. Plouck, a longtime administration official, leaves for the private sector.

Gov. John Kasich announced Dr. Hurst's appointment Friday. He will take over the department effective July 13.

Ms. Plouck has been in Gov. Kasich's cabinet since 2011 and has twice served as state Medicaid director. She also served as deputy director in the Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Budget and Management.

"I'm extremely grateful to Tracy Plouck for her leadership, compassion, counsel and service to Ohio," Gov. Kasich said. "She has a servant spirit and exemplifies the best in public leadership. She is a model for other leaders to follow and I wish her and her family all the best in this new chapter of their lives."

Dr. Hurst has served as medical director at ODMHAS since 2012 and has been at the department since 1993.

"Dr. Hurst's leadership, insights and compassion have distinguished him as a valuable member of our team and contributed mightily to the progress Ohio is beginning to make against addiction and to lift up our fellow Ohioans struggling with mental illness," Gov. Kasich said in a statement. "I appreciate that he's agreed to take on this responsibility. The work ahead is monumental and the challenges will continue to shift, but his leadership has been-and will continue to be-an enormous asset in Ohio's efforts in these areas."

**Unemployment:** The U.S. added 213,000 jobs in June despite a loss of jobs in retail trade, but the unemployment rate rose to 4% as more people re-entered the labor force, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday.

The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 4% as the number of unemployed people rose by nearly 500,000 to 6.6 million, the BLS reported.

The overall labor force grew significantly, rising by 601,000, with the labor force participation rate rising 0.2 percentage points to 62.9%, the report said.

The survey found job gains of 50,000 for the month in professional and business services. Manufacturing employment grew by 36,000, mostly in durable goods manufacturing, including fabricated metal products (+7,000), computer and electronic products (+5,000) and primary metals (+3,000).

Motor vehicles and parts manufacturing bounced back from a loss of 8,000 jobs in May with a gain of 12,000 in June, the report found.

Health care employment was up 25,000 for the month, construction was up 13,000 and mining was up 5,000.

Retail trade lost 22,000 jobs, a month after seeing a gain of 25,000 in May.

**State Highway Patrol:** The patrol reported eight people were killed in four deadly crashes during the Fourth of July reporting period Tuesday and Wednesday. Impairment was a factor in at least one of the deadly crashes.

During last year's reporting period, from June 30 to July 4, there were 21 fatal crashes that killed 21 people, including eight OVI-related crashes, the patrol said.

Troopers made 296 impaired driving arrests and 276 arrests on drug charges. They responded to 297 crashes and assisted more than 2,000 motorists.

"When someone chooses to drive impaired the consequences can be deadly," Patrol Superintendent Col. Paul A. Pride said in a statement. "That's why troopers make OVI enforcement a priority, whether they're patrolling during a holiday weekend or any time of day. Motorists should always pre-plan a sober way home."

**Natural Resources:** The department's officers and partnering agencies issued 102 citations and 895 warnings last weekend during Operation Dry Water, a nationwide crackdown on impaired boating.

There were three boating-related fatalities in Ohio during the weekend, the ODNR said.

ODNR officers and partners contacted 3,500 boaters on 1,261 vessels for various violations during the crackdown.

The Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management reported that 2,840 permits had been issued for drilling in the Utica shale as of June 30, with 2,370 wells drilled and 1,904 in production.

#### **Burke Blasts Cordray's Medicaid Comments; Soybean Group Sounds Tariff Alarm; Boccieri Calls For More Local Funding**

A lawmaker on Friday accused Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray of either lying about or not understanding the issue of Medicaid expansion.

Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), who chairs the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee, accused Mr. Cordray of twice in the past week saying that 26,000 children could be impacted if Medicaid expansion were rolled back.

However, Sen. Burke said in a statement that the expansion covers only childless adults.

"Richard Cordray continues to make Medicaid expansion a key part of his campaign for governor, but his statements over the past week prove he does not understand Ohio's Medicaid program. Cordray's comments in the media show he is either unprepared to be governor, or that he is willing to blatantly lie and use fear tactics to scare Ohioans into voting for him," he said.

"Medicaid comprises over 50% of Ohio's annual budget. If Richard Cordray doesn't understand such a key part of the state budget, then Ohioans simply cannot trust him to sit in the governor's office. Richard Cordray is making promises, and this week he's proven to us that that he doesn't know how he would keep them, even if he wanted to."

In response, the campaign of Mr. Cordray cited a 2016 report from the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families that credited Medicaid expansion for 26,000 children gaining insurance coverage from 2013-2015.

**Tariff Concerns:** The Ohio Soybean Association is sounding the alarm about retaliatory tariffs China has placed on American soybeans. The tariffs kicked in Friday in response to tariffs enacted by the Trump Administration that same day on an array of Chinese goods.

The group in a statement said 61% of all soybean exports go to China, which accounts for about \$14 billion annually in sales.

"This doesn't only hurt Ohio farmers, it will hurt the entire Ohio economy," said Allen Armstrong, OSA president and soybean farmer from Clark County. "We continue to believe that solutions can be found that do not involve tariffs and a trade war that will hurt all of rural America."

**Local Funding:** A new report by the Brookings Institute has led to a renewed call for more local government funding.

The report found that from 2010-2017, three Ohio cities ranked in the top 20 in population decline: Youngstown (19), Toledo (12) and Cleveland (5).

Rep. John Boccieri (D-Alliance) in a statement called for additional funding for local governments to stem the tide of population loss.

"You can push the responsibility of raising revenue to the lowest layers of government while sending more and more to state government," he said. "As elected officials, we have a duty to work together to get things done - regardless of who is in charge."

#### **Case Remanded After Judge Cites Article In Sentencing; High Court Denies Stay Of Execution; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...**

A federal district court judge erred in doubling a man's sentence after citing a Cleveland.com article on opioid overdoses, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled recently.

Marcus Fleming in July 2016 was pulled over by Canton police and found to be carrying nearly 1,000 grams of cocaine.

Based on federal sentencing guidelines, the prosecution recommended five years in prison for Mr. Fleming.

However, at the sentencing hearing Judge John Adams cited the article before handing down a 10-year sentence.

Mr. Fleming argued he was prejudiced by the use of the article because he did not know it would be cited at the sentencing hearing and he was not provided an opportunity to address the issues raised.

The Sixth Circuit agreed, finding the sentence was rendered in a procedurally unreasonable manner.

"The district court's consideration of information about mixed cocaine-opioid overdose deaths was a surprise because, before the sentencing hearing, there was no indication that opioids were relevant to this case, let alone that they would play a prominent role. Fleming was convicted for possession of cocaine, not opioids," Judge John Rogers wrote in the court's decision.

"Nothing in the record suggested that opioids were found in Fleming's car, or that Fleming had ever sold or possessed opioids, or even that any cocaine Fleming sold had ever been mixed with opioids. Of course, opioids have been a topic of grave public concern in recent years, as their devastating and tragic effects have been felt across the country. But it was far from apparent that they were relevant to Fleming's sentence-for possession of cocaine."

Judge Rogers was joined by Judge Raymond Kethledge and Judge Damon Keith in his decision.

The case is remanded back to the district court for sentencing.

**Stay Denied:** The Ohio Supreme Court has declined to stay the execution of a man set to be put to death this month.

In a unanimous ruling the court declined to stay the July 18 execution of Robert Van Hook.

He is on death row after being convicted of the 1985 murder of David Self.

**Judicial Deference:** The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief in a case that could end judicial deference to executive agencies' interpretations of the law.

"The practice of courts relying on agencies to interpret the law has proven to be dysfunctional, inconsistent with our constitutional system, and has led to the erosion of individual liberties," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "It is time for the Supreme Court to junk *Chevron*."

**Disciplinary Proceedings:** The Board of Professional Conduct announced that 12 cases have been certified for formal disciplinary proceedings.

### **Portman Sets Sights On Deferred Park Maintenance; Dems Welcome Pruitt's Exit; Ryan Tours Immigrant Facility**

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) is among a bipartisan group of senators aiming to tackle about \$12 billion in deferred maintenance within the National Park Service.

He joined with senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Angus King (I-ME) to introduce the Restore Our Parks Act, which has earned support from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Pew Charitable Trusts' Restore America's Parks Campaign and the Outdoor Industry Association.

"For more than a century, the National Park Service has been inspiring Americans to explore the natural beauty of our country," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "But in order to keep that work going, we need to ensure that they have the right resources to maintain our national parks. This bill will create the Legacy Restoration Fund to provide the National Park Service with funds for deferred maintenance projects."

The legislation would provide more than \$100 million in funding for work at parks and historic sites in Ohio. The vast majority of the funding would go toward improvements at two sites: Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay (\$47.7 million) and Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Cuyahoga and Summit counties (\$45.8 million).

**Resignation:** Democratic members of Ohio's congressional delegation had no kind words for U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt following his resignation Thursday.

"Scott Pruitt used taxpayer dollars to benefit himself while working to gut Lake Erie cleanup and the Renewable Fuel Standard and the Ohio jobs that depend on them," U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown tweeted. "He never should have been confirmed in the first place, and it's past time for him to go."

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) issued a brief statement in response to the departure: "It's about time."

U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Blacklick) simply tweeted "Byeeeeee!" with a link to a media report about Mr. Pruitt's resignation.

**Immigration:** Rep. Ryan and three of his U.S. House colleagues from Michigan on Thursday received a tour of Bethany Christian Services' facility in Grand Rapids and learned about the organization's plans to reunite immigrant children with their families.

Rep. Ryan in a statement called the Trump administration's policy of separating children from parents at the U.S.'s southern border "state sponsored abuse."

"Children are traveling by themselves or with their loved ones to avoid violence and danger in their country, and they fled to the United States to find safety and security. They are doing what any responsible parent would do," he said. "But when they arrive at our border, the Trump Administration turns its back on our values and rips children away from their parents - with zero plan to bring them back together."

**Hearing:** Sen. Brown and Sen. Portman will conduct a field hearing of a congressional committee charged with solving looming pension problems next week at the Statehouse.

The House and Senate Joint Select Committee on Pensions will meet at 2 p.m. next Friday at in the Finan Hearing Room. The hearing will allow panel members to receive testimony from Ohio workers and retirees who could be affected if Congress fails to take action.

Multiple plans Ohioans participate in, including the Central States Teamsters Pension Plan, the United Mine Workers Pension Plan, the Ironworkers Local 17 Pension Plan, the Ohio Southwest Carpenters Pension Plan and the Bakers and Confectioners Pension Plan "are currently on the "brink of failure," according to a news release from Sen. Portman's office.

The committee, which has 16 members appointed by House and Senate leadership, has been tasked with reporting a bill to resolve the issue by the end of November.

#### **Capitol Scene: Child Caring Group Updates Name**

The advocacy group formerly known as the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies has renamed itself the Ohio Children's Alliance, it was announced Friday.

The change, the group said, reflects the changing environment for child and family services.

"Our new name is more representative of our mission and the composition of our statewide network of community agencies," said Mark Mecum, the group's CEO. "Over the past five decades, our association has grown to over 70 community agencies that provide behavioral health, foster care, and other child and family services. We've also evolved into an alliance that fosters collaboration and innovation. Our new name symbolizes our commitment to Ohio's children and the agencies that serve them."

The organization was founded in 1973.

## **Governor's Appointments**

**State Dental Board:** Tracy Intihar of Columbus to the for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending April 6, 2021.

**Public Benefits Advisory Board:** Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2021.

**Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission:** Guy C. Coviello of Youngstown for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2023.

**Ohio Arts Council:** Darryl D. Mehaffie of Greenville, Farid Naffah, MD of Cortland, and Neal F. Zimmers, Jr., JD of Granville have been reappointed to the for terms beginning July 6, 2018, and ending July 1, 2023.

## **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Tuesday, July 10**

Radioactive Materials Committee, 35 E. Chestnut St., Basement Training Room A, Columbus,  
10:30 a.m.

**Friday, July 13**

Board of Voting Machine Examiners, 17th Fl., 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

## **Supplemental Event Planner**

**Monday, July 9**

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Click the # after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 7-Monday, July 9

### Legislative Committees

Monday, July 16

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

HB 123

**LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.)** To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

### Agency Calendar

Monday, July 9

State Board of Education, 25 South Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.  
Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

### Event Planner

Monday, July 9

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.  
Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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## Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 7/9/2018

### Monday, July 9

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

HB 123

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### Tuesday, July 10

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

- If needed-

HB 123

**LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.)** To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (7th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 10 a.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 11 a.m.

### Thursday, July 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.  
Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee (Chr. Burke, D., 000-0467), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

- Providers and consumers of MyCare services will be invited to share their perspectives on MyCare Ohio along with Q & A (100 minutes); Quality Measures Data from Department of Medicaid (20 minutes)

### Monday, July 16

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the a after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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## **Event Planner**

**Monday, July 9**

**Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.**

**Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)**

**Tuesday, July 10**

**Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)**

**Wednesday, July 11**

**Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) fundraiser, The Paddock Club, 1005 Richardson Rd., Groveport, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$250, Host \$100, Guest \$50 to Citizens for Richard Brown)**

**Thursday, July 12**

**Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Crest Gastropub, 621 Parsons Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host \$500, Friend \$250, Supporter \$150; Guest \$69 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)**

**Monday, July 16**

**Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf Course, 4399 OH-231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30 am registration; 10 am shotgun)**

**Tuesday, July 17**

**Republican Senate Campaign Committee MLB All-Star Game fundraiser, Dock 79, 79 Potomac Ave SE, Washington DC, 5 p.m., (Walk Off: \$5,000 | Grand Slam: \$2,500 | Home Run: \$1,000 to RSCC)**

**Thursday, July 19**

**ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

**Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) manicure fundraiser, W Nail Bar, 946 N. High Street, Columbus, 4 p.m., (PAC: \$500 | Individual: \$250 | Young Professional: \$50 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze. RSVP is required to ensure appointment.)**

**Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser, Progressive Field, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, 4 p.m., (4:00pm Warm Up & Batting | 5:30pm Reception. Grand Slam: \$5,000 | Home Run: \$2,500 | Single: \$1,000 | Spectator: \$150 to Friends of Matt Dolan)**

**Friday, July 20**

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**ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser, Mallard Creek Golf Club, 34500 Royalton Road (SR 82), Columbia Station, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Shotgun start; Tournament: \$2,000, Eagle: \$1,000; Foursome: \$600, Birdie: \$5000, Person: \$150 to Friends of Tom Patton)

**Saturday, July 21**

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**ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver**

**Sunday, July 22**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Monday, July 23**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000 | Foursome: \$400 | Tee or Green Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Huffman for Ohio)

**Tuesday, July 24**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold: \$2,000; Silver: \$1,000; Bronze: \$500 to Seitz for Ohio)

**Wednesday, July 25**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Sen. Reb McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Road, Defiance, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch | 12:00pm Shotgun Start | 5:30pm Cocktail Hour | 6:00pm Dinner with State Rep. Craig Riedel. Event Sponsor: \$2,500 | Tee Sponsor: \$1,000 | Green Sponsor: \$500 | Foursome: \$400 | Dinner Sponsor: \$250 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Citizens for McColley)

**Thursday, July 26**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, 9:30 a.m., (9:30 Shotgun Start. Event: \$2,500, Tee: \$1,000, Green: \$500, Foursome: \$400, Golfer: \$100 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel) Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Via Vite, 520 Vine St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, Host: \$500, Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Blessing)

**Friday, July 27**

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**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Monday, July 30**

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**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Tuesday, July 31**

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**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports**

**Wednesday, August 1**

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**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, August 2**

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**NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles**

**Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) Lake Erie fundraiser, Dock's Beach House, 252 W. Lakeshore Drive, Port Clinton, 4 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)**

**Friday, August 3**

---

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports**

**Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) golf outing fundraiser, Cliffside Golf, 100 Cliffside Drive, Gallipolis, 9 a.m., (Coffee/Registration: 9:00am; Shotgun Start: 10:00am; Event Chair: \$12,707.79; Event host: \$5,000; Event sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,000; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$150; Reception only: \$75 to Friends of Ryan Smith)**

**Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, FOP Hall, 2249 Payne Ave., Cleveland, 5 p.m., (\$200 (table); \$20 (friend) to Friends of Sandra Williams)**

**Tuesday, August 7**

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**Special election for 12th Congressional District seat**

**Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, Condado, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Lanese for Ohio)**

**Wednesday, August 15**

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**Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, August 16**

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**Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser**

**Friday, August 17**

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**Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) Fly Fishing fundraiser**

**Monday, August 20**

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**Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser, Pinnacle Golf Club, 1500 Pinnacle Golf Club Dr., Grove City, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Registration, 11:00 am Shotgun start, Dinner to follow; Event:\$1,500, Food and Beverage: \$700, Golfer: \$150; Hole: \$100 to Lanese for Ohio)**

**Thursday, August 23**

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**Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, August 27**

---

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Denison Golf Club, 555 Newark Granville Rd., Granville, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Registration, 10:00 am Shotgun Start. Event: \$2500; Food and Beverage: \$1000; Tee: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Golfer: \$125; Green: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)**

**Saturday, September 1**

---

**Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports**

**Thursday, September 6**

---

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports  
Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) golf outing fundraiser**

**Friday, September 14**

---

**Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser, Springdale Golf Course, 5871 Canterbury Road, North Olmstead, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Shotgun Start, Lunch at the Turn, Dinner to follow; Dinner Sponsor: \$1,500, Lunch Sponsor: \$1,000, Drink Sponsor: \$750, Hole Sponsor: \$100; Foursome: \$500, Single Golfer: \$125, Dinner only: \$60 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)**

**Thursday, September 27**

---

**Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun fundraiser**

**Friday, September 28**

---

**Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser  
Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser**

**Monday, October 1**

---

**JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report**

**Wednesday, October 3**

---

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports**

**Thursday, October 25**

---

**Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports**

**Tuesday, November 6**

---

**General election day**

**Thursday, November 8**

---

**2018 Impact Ohio Post Election Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus**

**Saturday, December 1**

---

**Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019**

**Friday, December 14**

---

**Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports**

**Monday, December 31**

---

**All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC**

**Thursday, January 31**

---

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215

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**From:** NCSL TODAY  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:01 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Hey, you, behind the wheel: Turn off 'Survivor'

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## TOP NEWS June 28, 2018

### States cracking down on streaming video while driving

*USA TODAY*

Georgia isn't the only state to single out streaming as a new danger. A Washington state law, the Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act, in January was the first to specifically mention video on phones. It even makes it illegal for Washington drivers to sneak a peek at their smartphone when stopped in traffic or at a stoplight, though they can touch a mounted or in-dash screen.

**NCSL's Annie Kitch quoted.**

[NCSL resources on distracted driving.](#)

### 'Now comes the interesting part' with online sales tax collections

*Route Fifty*

The court ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* has



also left complicated questions in its wake. Like what the specifics of new state policies could look like, whether Congress will take action, and how companies that sell goods online will react. NCSL's Max Behlke quoted.

### **Maine legislature passes sweeping medical marijuana reform bill**

*Portland Press Herald*

The bill, which now goes to Gov. Paul LePage, would let caregivers expand their business operations. For example, they could hire more than one worker, and sell up to 30 percent of their harvest to other caregivers and dispensaries.

[NCSL resources on medical marijuana.](#)

### **Ohio legislature passes blockchain legislation**

*Cleveland.com*

Ohio is close to becoming the latest state to offer legal support for blockchain-based business transactions, following a Wednesday vote by the state's General Assembly.

[NCSL LegisBrief on blockchain technology.](#)

### **South Carolina lawmakers OK rate cuts for failed nuclear plants**

*Associated Press*

South Carolina lawmakers have approved a temporary rate cut of nearly 15 percent for customers of a private utility who paid billions for two nuclear reactors that never produced power.

### **Webinar 3 p.m. ET TODAY Federal infrastructure funding - an update while we wait**

One of the most talked-about possibilities for federal action in 2018 is a new infrastructure bill that aims to inject what nearly all experts agree is a significant boost of funds for many of our national infrastructure systems.



= A

### **2017 state tax actions**

**Hear from thought leaders at NCSL's Legislative Summit July 30-Aug. 2**

**Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app**



### **Supreme Court deals blow to unions in Janus case**

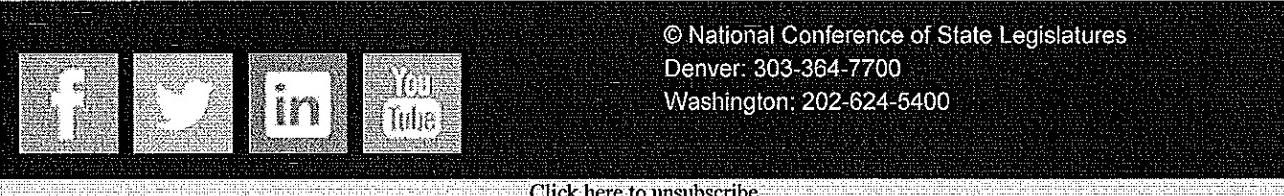
The U.S. Supreme Court held 5-4 in *Janus v. AFSCME* that state statutes allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their

## **Commercial spaceports still waiting for liftoff**

"fair share" of collective bargaining costs violate the First Amendment.

### *Stateline*

Communities are eager to tap into the growing commercial space industry.



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**From:** GOVERNING Daily  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 8:50 AM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Union Ruling Could Impact Black Women the Most

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THE STATES AND LOCALITIES

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## FEATURED STORY FOR JULY 9, 2018

### The Janus Decision Is a Blow to Unions. It's Especially Bad for Black Women.

The Supreme Court's ruling could weaken unions' collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

Ad



## LATEST GOVERNING NEWS & COMMENTARY

### INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT

#### **Different Energy Boom, Same Mistakes?**

Critics say West Virginia, which is enjoying an explosion of natural gas production and jobs, is repeating the missteps it made with the coal industry.

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### VOICES OF THE GOVERNING INSTITUTE

#### **Libraries, Technology and the Route to Relevance**

By better aligning their services to community needs, they can target inequities and support economic opportunity.

## LATEST WEB HEADLINES

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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- Trump Freezes Obamacare Payments Again, and Insurers Warn of Rising Premiums**

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- **After Medicaid Ruling, Mississippi Tweaks Its Work Requirements Waiver**
- 

#### POLITICS

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- **Illinois Governor Profits Off ICE Detention Center Contracts**  
= 9 = 9
  - **Harassment Allegations Spur Calls From His Own Party for Indiana AG to Resign**  
= 9 = 9 = 9
  - **Former Republican Governor of Iowa, Known for Helping Refugees, Dies**
- 

#### PUBLIC JUSTICE & SAFETY

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- **In Unprecedented Ruling, Federal Judge Strikes Down a State Law That Ties Court Fees to Driver's Licenses**  
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  - **There's a Cure for Hepatitis C, But 144,000 State Prisoners Aren't Getting It**  
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  - **Gun Violence Protesters Shut Down Highway in Chicago**
- 

#### NEWS IN NUMBERS

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## Almost 60

Wildfires raging, in 11 states, last week.

MORE

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## WHO SAID THAT?

= 9"

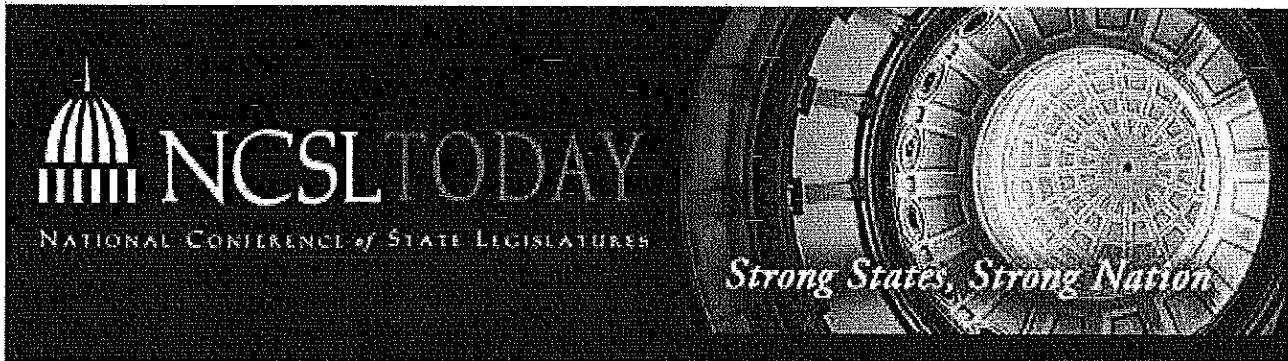
**"California's decision not to assist federal immigration enforcement in its endeavors is not an 'obstacle' to that enforcement effort. Standing aside does not equate to standing in the way."**

MORE

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**From:** NCSL TODAY  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 5:34 PM  
**To:** Slack, Cora  
**Subject:** Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

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## TOP NEWS July 9, 2018

### Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

*Stateline*

Unplugged wells can leak explosive gas into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

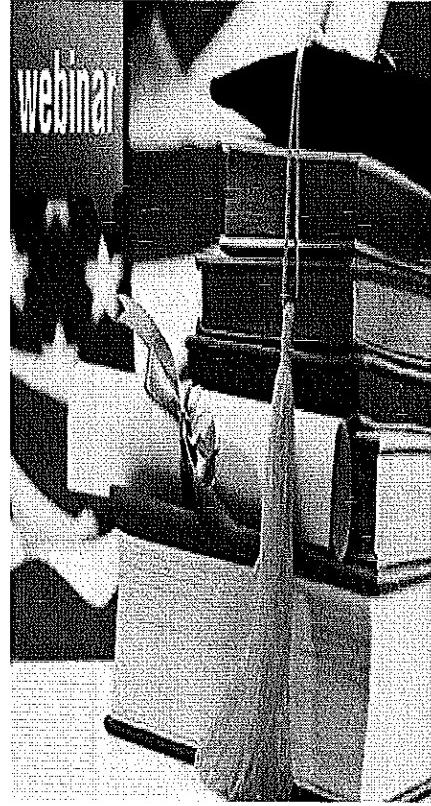
### At state level, GOP renews push for 'supermajority' for tax hikes

*The Washington Post*

Florida Republicans are pursuing a plan to make it harder for lawmakers to raise taxes in the state, adding new hurdles for Democrats hoping to enact bold social programs such as "Medicare for all" and more robust education spending. NCSL research cited.

### Insurers warn of rising premiums after Trump axes Obamacare payments again

*Reuters*



Health insurers warned that a move by the Trump administration on Saturday to temporarily suspend a program that was set to pay out \$10.4 billion to insurers for covering high-risk individuals last year could drive up premium costs and create marketplace uncertainty.

[NCSL resources on health insurance premiums and increases.](#)

## **North Dakota measure would ban noncitizen voting**

*Associated Press*

Backers of a measure to change the North Dakota Constitution to explicitly bar non-U.S. citizens from voting say they have gathered enough signatures to get it on the November ballot. [NCSL research cited.](#)

## **Delaware lawmakers approve bill to prohibit pharmacist 'gag clauses'**

*Delaware Public Media*

Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), third-party administrators of prescription drug programs for health insurance plans, sometimes forbid pharmacists from telling customers about cheaper therapeutic alternatives, or disclosing when a drug might be cheaper when paid for out-of-pocket, rather than through insurance. A [NCSL data cited.](#) [NCSL resources on 'gag clauses'.](#)

## **Janus ruling is a blow to public unions - especially bad for black women**

*Governing*

The Supreme Court's decision could weaken unions'

## **Webinar Wednesday: Revitalizing civics education in U.S. schools**

This webinar will explore the general state of civics knowledge and education in the United States and highlight some of the work state legislators are undertaking to address the civics education and engagement in their states.



## **FY 2019 state budget status**

Hear from thought leaders at the forefront of top issues at the Legislative Summit

## **Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app**



## **Dig deep into Supreme Court's term with this free webinar series**

Check out this series of webinars organized by the State and Local Legal Center and hosted by NCSL and other organizations. All of the webinars are FREE and intended for

collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

a non-attorney and attorney audiences.



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**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** Aaron Gillham  
**Subject:** RE: ALEC CARE demonstration?

Hi Aar

**From:** Aaron Gillham [mailto:[aaron@votergravity.com](mailto:aaron@votergravity.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 04, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** Slack, Cora <[Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lehman, Ryan <[Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: ALEC CARE demonstration?

Hi Cora,

Great to get connected and we would definitely love to have you join us for an online webinar to walk through the ALEC CARE system. Let me know if there is a good day next week that would work for you and we can go from there.

Thanks and we look forward to hearing back!

On Fri, Aug 4, 2017 at 2:08 PM, Ashley Varner <[aavarner@alec.org](mailto:aavarner@alec.org)> wrote:

Thank you, Ryan. Cora, Aaron and I are happy to help answer questions and walk you through the constituent relationship management system.

Best,

Ashley

---

**From:** [Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov) [mailto:[Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 04, 2017 2:07 PM  
**To:** Ashley Varner; Aaron Gillham ([aaron@votergravity.com](mailto:aaron@votergravity.com))  
**Cc:** [Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: ALEC CARE demonstration?

Ashley,

Thanks for reaching out to provide a demonstration on ALEC CARE. I copied this email to our director of constituent services. Cora would be the best person to walk through the system with. I have informed her, and will have her reach out to you to schedule a time.

**Ryan J. Lehman**

*Majority Policy Advisor*

Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger

Ohio House of Representatives

[ryan.lehman@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:ryan.lehman@ohiohouse.gov)

(614) 466-6505

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**From:** Ashley Varner [mailto:[avarner@alec.org](mailto:avarner@alec.org)]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 04, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** Lehman, Ryan <[Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Ryan.Lehman@ohiohouse.gov)>; Aaron Gillham ([aaron@votergravity.com](mailto:aaron@votergravity.com)) <[aaron@votergravity.com](mailto:aaron@votergravity.com)>  
**Subject:** ALEC CARE demonstration?

Hello Ryan,

Thank you for attending the ALEC Legislative Staff Academy in Denver. I hope you found the demonstration we gave on the ALEC CARE constituent relationship management system helpful.

As an ALEC member, Speaker Rosenberger can begin utilizing ALEC CARE at any time. We'd be happy to go through the system with you individually so you can benefit from the system in your legislative work.

Can we schedule a time with you next week to walk you through the system and answer any questions?

CC'd here is my colleague, Aaron Gillham, who handles our ALEC trainings. He will go over everything with you when you are ready.

Best,

Ashley

Ashley N. Varner

ALEC CARE

--  
Regards,

Aaron with Voter Gravity  
Client Relations Specialist  
aaron@votergravity.com